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THE
MARYLAND FARMER:
DEVOTED TO
Agriculture, Horticulture, and Rural Economy.

VOL. XI.

BALTIMORE, JANUARY, 1874.

No. I.

A NEW YEAR AND A NEW VOLUME.

January, worn and gray,
Like an old pilgrim by the way,
Watches the snow, and shivering sighs,
As the wild curlew round him flies;
Or, huddled underneath a thorn,
Sits praying for the lingering morn

We present ourselves to our subscribers for the year 1874, with the sincere hopes that each and every one of our patrons may be in the fruition of all the pleasures of health, prosperity, household comforts and domestic happiness. And further, that they may continue to enjoy every blessing undiminished during the ensuing year.—All that lies in our power shall be done to accomplish such a desirable end for each and every one of our many patrons and the thousands of our readers. While we, on this 1st of January, 1874, felicitate ourselves in being permitted to live in this land of our fathers, a land of freedom and one overflowing with plenty, let us return our thanks to the giver of all good, Him who "watereth the hills from his chambers; who causes the grass to grow for the cattle and the herb for the service of man, that he may bring forth good out of the earth: and wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart."

Through the kind instrumentality of our friends, our subscription list has been greatly increased, while the advertisements have more than doubled of late; advertisers seeing the advantages derived from availing themselves of the *Maryland Farmer* to make known to its host of readers, the various articles which they have for sale. We trust, and ask as a favor of each subscriber, that he exert himself to obtain other subscribers, and thus continue to swell our already long list. On our part we shall continue to improve the Journal, by the contributions of new correspondents in connection with the former contributors, to our columns, whom we are proud of, and whose facile pens and able practical articles have given so

much pleasant instruction to our readers. We are gratified that the last volume has been recognized, by those best capable of judging, as the best of its predecessors, and we intend the *Maryland Farmer* for the current year to still further excel.

We intend our Journal to be a sound, safe, practical adviser and friend to the working farmer.—We should therefore be happy to have letters of enquiries, statements of experiments and expressions of opinions from our friends engaged in the various branches of rural pursuits. It is by the attrition of science and practical experience that the most valuable facts are arrived at. Let us then have theory and practice fully set forth and discussed, in however plain, home-spun style it may be.

The first of the year is a time peculiarly suited to the forming of resolutions and laying out plans for our government and labors during the year, and we shall bear in mind such proverbs of that great Philosopher, who chose to call himself "*Poor Richard*," as: "Drive thy business, let not that drive thee." "Diligence is the mother of good luck." "There are no gains without pains."

We would suggest to our readers, also, the axioms of the same Poor Richard:

"He that by the plow would thrive, himself must either hold or drive."

"The eye of the master will do more work than both his hands."

"Want of care does us more damage than want of knowledge."

Let us follow these trite and wise sayings and it will tend the more certainly to the realization of our sincere wishes for each and all—a happy New Year!

"Give thanks for the mercies and blessings received, And prayers for the homes by sorrow bereaved; Rejoice with great joy for each unbroken band, Where heart answers heart, while hand clasps the hand;

And while we've enough, and to spare, Remember the poor everywhere, And give while we pray, Thus making the day A glory throughout the whole land."

For the Maryland Farmer.

1874.

Messrs. Editors and Publisher, ye corps of contributors to the columns of the *Farmer*, and ye host of readers, all, your co-worker and reader, desires most cordially to congratulate you that we are by the mercy of divine Providence spared, and are permitted once more to extend to each other the compliments and congratulations of the annually recurring season, and to embark again for a new campaign, as writers, publishers and readers of the "*Maryland Farmer*," the welcome monthly visitor, and the safe counsellor of the planter and farmer of the Middle and Southern States.

You, Messrs. Editors, would be pardonable should you be proud of the "*Farmer*" of 1873. It is not only more interesting, more ably edited, and of more value to your readers than any previous volume has been, but it is, as a text and hand book of Agriculture, and Horticulture without a superior in the vast field in which it circulates.

And you Mr. Publisher, have the most flattering encouragement in your greatly augmented list of subscribers, and in the standard character and increasing popularity of your journal. May the former increase until the "*Farmer*" shall grace every Southern and Middle State fire-side; and the other characteristics not only be maintained, but with each succeeding issue, may it improve as it has in the past, until it shall have no acknowledged rival. You, my co-contributors, have creditably and generously performed your part; you have spread your brilliant green leaves before thousand who have acknowledged your intelligent and sage teachings, and boasted of the profit they have derived therefrom; long and fondly will your successful efforts be cherished.

Let us not "look back;" but when our hands are not at "*the plow*," let us ply the *pen*, and with untiring effort, endeavour to alleviate the labors, enlighten the minds, and increase the reward of those whose cause we have voluntarily espoused.

I cheerfully avail myself of this opportune medium of acknowledging that I have been edified and deeply interested by numerous contributions that have from time to time adorned the pure pages of the "*Farmer*" during the past year; and to such a degree, that its recurring lunar visits, each further augment, and swell higher the tide of profitable instruction, and leave me on more elevated, and more secure ground than I had ever hitherto attained.

The character of most of the contributed matter,

as well as the editorial of the "*Farmer*" of 1873, has been particularly well adapted to the class of readers for whom it was compiled; and its effects have already been apparent and salutary; and we have good foundation for the hope, that the ameliorating and enlightening influences which it will impart in the future, will not only equal, but far excell those of the past.

There has happily been a marked harmony, and a growing kindly, fraternal feeling, evidently existing between those whose pens have furnished the manuscript for the "*Farmer*" of 1873: and it is greatly to be hoped that so commendable a feeling may be faithfully fostered, and that this virtue may characterize its pages in the future; and that usefulness may continue to be the paramount purpose and aim of all future contributors.

Dear subscriber for, and reader of the "*Farmer*," let me impress upon you the encouraging fact, that it is your organ, that its pages are always open and free for your use, as a medium of recording and communicating to your fraternity all your successes, also your failures, which latter, will often prove the more profitable of the two; as they will form a valuable chart by which others may shun the reefs on which you have stranded.

Let me also admonish you that your interest will be directly and essentially promoted by your exertions to secure patronage for your paper. With increase of revenue from subscription, the publisher can, and will increase the value of your paper by more expensive, and more numerous illustrations, and in various other ways which are expensive, and can only be adopted and sustained by an increase of circulation. There is scarcely a subscriber who cannot secure, with little or no effort, one or more others, and thereby mutually benefit his neighbor, himself, the publisher, and all interested. Will you not do so?

Fraternally Yours,

J. WILKINSON,
Baltimore, Md.

AMERICAN WHEAT IN ENGLISH MARKETS.—The *Mark Lane Express* says: "American wheat has a quality this year that is more acceptable to the English market, and as our dependence is chiefly on that country our prices will be much influenced by her ability to supply our wants. The recent rise in France, and the extraordinary high prices quoted in Southern Russia will be calculated to prevent any great depression; for nothing has occurred to alter the facts as to the general yield, and we now have reason to fear that, as regards condition as well as supply, Germany will not be able to do much for us this year."

For the Maryland Farmer.

PERIODS OF GOOD AND BAD CROPS.

Your correspondent "Judex," in November No. after speaking of large crops of wheat he had met with in his travels through Howard, Montgomery and Carroll counties, has this remark: "Much has been written about the diminution of the productiveness of our soils in the matter of raising wheat. We would like to take those who argue thus into Howard county and show them the best face of Howard county farming. It would modify their ideas."

The falling off in the average yield of wheat per acre, which has, up to this season, continued through a period of about ten years, has been the subject of universal remark. No estimate of this deficiency has been made, that I know of, which can lay claim to accuracy, but from frequent inquiry among wheat growers cultivating some of our best Maryland land, I have supposed it to be not less than thirty-three per cent. Such, for instance, as in all ordinary calculations before the setting in of this period, might be safely set down for thirty bushels, have within the period brought not more than twenty bushels per acre. I am speaking now of Maryland especially, but I think the same falling off, to a greater or less degree, has been noted throughout the country.

There has been no satisfactory explanation made of this fact. To call it a succession of bad seasons is not at all sufficient, because the seasons have, within the time, been very various for the same locality, and greatly more so, when we consider the whole latitude and longitude of the wheat growing region.

Nor is it more satisfactory to attribute it to the gradual and general wearing down of the soil and exhaustion of the necessary elements of growth. This has been the ready reason of city gentlemen who assume sometimes to understand farm topics better than the farmers themselves. They read the papers and the advertisements of fertilizing compounds, are very sure that phosphoric acid and lime and potash will put an end to the trouble. We should rejoice in so easy a solution of the difficulty, but it happens that the richest lands, such as are well known to be not deficient in these necessary elements have fallen off in like proportions, and that no quantity of fertilizing material added, has been able to remedy the evil. All we can say of it is, that it seems to have been one of those periods of failure which our agricultural philosophy has no means of accounting for, but which is well worthy of scientific investigation.

I can recollect many such periods affecting

various crops, sometimes one and sometimes another. The first was a time when for many years the crop of rye, not a valuable one at best, produced little more than the seed sown. Then the wheat crops failed so constantly from year to year, that "uncertain as a wheat crop" became a proverb. But a turn came, and the crop of wheat on land well prepared and sufficiently fertile, became about as reliable as any we cultivate.—The potato crop, as all remember, was for many years scarcely worth planting on account of the disease affecting it; and even in the absence of any apparent disease, the yield per acre was diminished almost one half from previous years. But of late we expect, with confidence, good crops from good cultivation. The facts that your correspondent reports of thirty bushels, and more, of wheat to the acre, and many like it that I hear of, and the general result of this year's wheat crop, lead me to hope that a new period has set in—a period of good crops, and that in the years ahead of us, we may hope for exemption from the same general cause at least, that has so shortened the crop of late. It would be interesting to get the averages of the past ten years of the several farms when he has found a yield of thirty this year, and of such land as gives fifteen barrels of corn to the acre.

In the case of the potato crop, there was a specific disease; but independent of that, and in its absence, there was a falling off of productive power that greatly reduced the average yield. Our wheat crop has suffered from no new disease, but some general influence seems to have come over it, that has taken away its power of resisting the numerous ills to which it is subject. Let us hope that a period of recovery has come, and that we may now look confidently for the old averages, and better.

LUCERN AND ALFALFA.

The opinion of Mr. Ed. Stabler, that what we know as "Lucern" and the California "Alfalfa" are not identical, is of much interest, as it leads to the hope that we may avail ourselves of the latter and get what is very much needed, a very valuable addition to our pasture grasses. Lucern, valuable as it may be for soiling, has been always understood to be unfit for pasturage, and this opinion, with the belief that the Alfalfa is the same plant, has no doubt prevented the introduction of the latter. The result of Mr. Love's experiment will be looked for with interest. From its close resemblance to the Lucern, we may suppose it to have the characteristics which make our clover valuable, and moreover, that it will endure through our summer drought, where clover often fails us. We cannot be too diligent, it seems to me, in seeking to improve and extend our pasture grounds, and to increase the production of good meat and dairy products, and there is room enough in Maryland for thousands more of Devons and Aldeneys, not to mention South-Downs, and Cotswold, if our fields were only set in good grasses.

N. B. W.

Agricultural Calendar.

FARM WORK FOR JANUARY.

The beginning of a New Year should always be a time for thought and brain-work within doors, with the prudent and sensible farmer. He should cast-up all his accounts for the past year and ascertain to a cent, what he made clear, and what are his assets, and what is the true amount of his indebtedness, or, if happily, he is free from debt, the precise amount he has due to him, or what is to his credit in Bank, or the cash in hand.

Next, what manures he bought the past year, that paid him the best; what crops, and which fields yielded most; also what kind of stock paid the highest profit and with the least expense, trouble and care. He should see that his Farm-Book has been properly kept for the past year and well arranged for the present. Every plan for the coming year should therein be recorded, and an account opened against every field and every kind of stock, and against individual animals, if there be any of much notoriety. In this farm book a diary should be kept of the work, state of weather, remarkable events, &c. On the first page, should be a correct inventory of all the farming utensils, valued at their cash valuation, and any new ones bought during the year to be added to the list, and ten per cent. on the whole amount, for breakage, wear and tear, to be charged against the farm, along with other debits. A list of all the stock and their fair valuation or cash cost prices. Another account in the Book of the Farm should be opened between the master and the Farm. In this the farm should be charged with taxes, six per cent. interest on the value of land, ten per cent. on value of stock, cost of fertilizers, labor, new implements and stock; and expenses of every description. On the other side, *credit* the farm with nett proceeds of sale of every thing, all the utensils and stock of every description, at such a cash valuation as the interest was charged on against the farm, and also with house rent, fuel, keep of pleasure horses, butter, milk, meat consumed in the family, poultry, honey, &c., besides vegetables, meal and corn consumed in the family. All this will consume many hours in the early part of January in arranging the most of these accounts, and will require some short time each day or every few days in each week in keeping up the various accounts and memoranda, but will end in so much self-gratification and useful data, *as recorded experience*, that will be a basis for future operations,

and at last become so much a habit of pleasant and profitable duty, that it could not be dispensed with, even if one tried to do so, after a series of year's conformity with the rule. A frequent recourse to this book would be not only agreeable but highly interesting and instructive.

Having done these things, and seen that all the stock of every sort is snugly provided with winter shelters sufficient for their comfort, and that the family have a full supply of fuel and dried wood for kindlings—all the grain secured—the larder and cellars well filled with vegetables and meats—the poultry well cared for—the barn-yard properly supplied with straw in the racks in the yard and hay, roots, &c., within the sheds—fresh water, salt, &c., constantly supplied, and all things in a condition that can be favorably shown by the owner or tenant of the farm to any passers-by or to any criticising interviewer who may chance to pass along in a captious spirit. Under such a state of things the farmer can, when he closes his day's work, repair to his family fireside, with a "heart void of offense," and a self-satisfied conscience that he has discharged all his duties and can give his heart and mind to the dear ones who cling about him in the light of the cheerful winter's fire. Where ought there to be found, or can be seen, a happier man than such a provident, thoughtful, thrifty farmer?

We may hope that the corn is safe in the crib, the stock cared for, and the *Ice* secured for the next year, while wood is being secured, cut and piled for seasoning, and all the fence rails and posts required for fencing are being got ready and hauled in their places, when they will be required.

BARN YARD.

The barn yard should be at least once in ten days covered over six to ten inches deep with muck, dry earth or refuse vegetable matter, or tan-bark or saw dust, where to be conveniently had, after being put in a compost heap with about 2 bushels of lime to every 50 of saw dust or tan-bark, and intermixed with the liquid manure about 2 or 3 months before being used by itself or as a good absorbent in the stables and in the yards; so that all the liquid manure may be absorbed, except such as may be disposed of more profitably elsewhere.

STOCK OF ALL KINDS.

Keep dry with fresh beds of straw, corn stalks, saw dust, leaves, &c., under tight shelters covered with plank or brush, and straw or corn fodder. Open shelters facing the South are best in our climate for sheep, young cattle, colts and mules; also for cattle not worked or milked—stalls are

best for the two latter, and for beeves, it is best to put them in stalls keeping plenty of litter always about them and giving plenty of water and food until they leave the stall for the shambles, when there will be found a deep bed of superior manure while the heat arising from its decomposition has aided the animal in taking on flesh, at the same time it has had a soft, dry and warm bed to repose while digesting its food and consequently it necessarily has taken on fat and flesh rapidly. This, however, can only be done successfully where a large amount of straw or leaves are at command. Under this plan, the manure from the stall of each ox will not only pay for the labor and attention, but go near to pay for the food consumed in the fattening process. The young stock *must* be strictly attended to this month. Handle and card the colts and calves, using them to the halter often. Let their education begin before they are a year old.—When wanted for service they will not need *breaking*, too often a literal meaning of the term, is exemplified in the first taking up a colt for service—the *breaking* of spirit and constitution which results in utter worthlessness and short life.

EVERGREENS AND FOREST TREES.

Winter is the best time to remove and transplant forest trees and evergreens of large size. When the ground is open, dig around them, leaving a large lump of earth about the roots. Have the holes open for their reception and when freezing weather comes, remove the trees with the earth about them. After planting raise a mound about them and stake them strongly. In Spring level the mounds and manure as well as mulch heavily around them.

HOGS.

A few brood sows of improved breed will be enough for a family. It is poor economy for a farmer to buy his pork, when two sows well taken care of will give him all the hog meat his family and a few hirelings will require during the year, and also lard and sausage and small bones, those great delicacies so enjoyed by everybody for breakfast and supper. Under the old plan, it was cheaper to buy western pork than to raise it, but experience has proven that with improved breeds, and high feeding it is great economy to raise your own pork. Hogs at eight months old will, or ought to, weigh 300 lbs—and the second litter a year, can be made into pork for family use at three months, weighing 80 to 100 lbs. or sold to the butcher when they command high prices. To this is to be added now

and then a superior one sold as a breeder for \$20 at 8 or 10 weeks old.

POTATOES.

If you have not already done so, manure heavily the ground you intend to put in potatoes next year, give it a dressing of a bushel of plaster and two of salt per acre, plow, when you can, deep, and harrow. All potato growers in the north, agree that potato ground should be manured and plowed in the fall or winter if you would have a heavy yield next year, particularly of early potatoes; and, by the way, they pay best in this section as they are free from northern competition. Next season plow the land well so as to incorporate thoroughly the manure, harrow to a fine tilth, and use some nitrogenous phosphate heavily, and you cannot fail to grow a good crop of large sound potatoes.

FARM IMPLEMENTS.

Look over the farm implements and have all put in good order, and purchase at once such as you may want the coming season; do not rely on *borrowing*, it costs more time than the thing is worth, and it is an unthankful, mean way of getting along on a farm.

MILCH COWS AND BUTTER.

With proper arrangements, and good keeping of cows, no more profitable domestic source of employment can be had than butter-making—nice print butter from the country will always command 60 to 80 cents per pound in a large market—it comes to market firm and nice looking if it be prepared with skill. A good cow, partly fresh, if well milked and well fed will yield at least from \$4 to \$5 per week, or \$20 per month, and her keep will not cost over \$5 for that time. Three or four cows would thus yield a nice little revenue, per month. If properly fixed for it, dairy business is twice as profitable in winter as it is in summer. Smear-case, or Cottage Cheese, is very saleable in winter at prices that make the scum milk yield a profit nearly up to the butter made from the cream taken from the scum milk. A nice article will readily command 16 cents a quart, and rich milk to eat with it will command 10 cents per pint. It is in great demand we have noticed of late in our markets. It forms the great dessert for a large class of our people, especially for Sunday. What immense quantities of saleable provisions are lost to our country people through ignorance of the demand of, or inattention to these small industries, belonging to the household economy of rural homes,

FIRE WOOD.

After securing enough for the winter's use be sure and go on and cut and cord a full supply for next year. It is true economy to burn seasoned wood; you can haul almost twice as much and it takes much less wood to give the same amount of heat—it is much easier kindled and handled and split. It is every way more economical, and more satisfactory. Once get in the habit of having a supply of fire-wood one year ahead, and you would never fail to do so. It would soon become an indispensable necessity with you.

READING.

These long nights and stormy days, are well suited for reading and study. Pardon us for advising you to take one or more Agricultural periodicals, and study Agricultural works. Think less of polites and more of the science of your profession—a highly noble one. Employ thus profitably your time, remember what Franklin says: "Dost thou love life? Then waste not time, for time is the stuff that life is made of." Be alert and commence the year with early rising, setting a good example to your employees and lose not sight, in your daily avocations, of poor Richard's sayings one of the great, condensed and practical proverbs of the immortal Franklin: *God gives all things to industry, then plough deep, while sluggards sleep, and you will have corn to sell and to keep.*

FOOD FOR SILK WORMS.

A French observer states that, by feeding silk-worms on vine-leaves, he has obtained worms of a magnificent red; and where lettuce leaves were the food, the product was of a deep emerald green color. By thus varying the food of the worm, M. Delidon de Saint-Gilles, of Vendee, has been enabled to obtain silk the natural colors of which were a beautiful yellow, green and violet. In view of results so important the question is at once suggested: Will the worms thrive upon this new diet? for, if so, then this discovery may justly be regarded as one of the greatest importance in this department of the applied arts. Should our native silk-growers be inclined to attempt the experiment, it is well for them to know that the silk-worms must be fed on mulberry-leaves when young, and supplied with the vine lettuce or nettle leaves during the last twenty days of the larva-stage of their life. It now only remains for some patient worker to compound an artificial food, which shall combine the nutritive properties of the mulberry leaf with the coloring power of the others, and thus at once dispense with the complicated and delicate dying processes now in use.

GARDEN WORK.

But little work can be done in the garden this month. The small fruits may be, if not done long before this, as they should have been, trimmed and thinned, weather permitting, worked about and mulched with half rotted manure. The larger fruit trees, cleaned of the rough dead bark and the moss scraped off, taking care not to injure the healthy bark. Then wash them with a mixture of the following ingredients: 1 gallon of soft soap, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of sulphur, 1 quart of salt, 1 quart of wood ashes, reduced to the consistence of thick white-wash, by adding water, and applied to the trees with a white-wash brush.

STIFF CLAY BEDS.

Manure the clay beds heavily, spade deep and let them lie in the rough to be acted on by the frost—Sow over them salt and ashes and plaster, in equal parts, at the rate of 20 bushels of the mixture per acre. This is easily arrived at by measuring the beds and making the proper calculation.

GENERAL WORK.

Make compost heaps and get in a pile of manure, also rich wood's earth—Supply yourself with a sufficiency of poles for beans and other climbers—also get all the sticks and brush required for peas, &c. Make trellises for cucumbers, tomatoes, &c. Make straw mats to cover the hot beds and cold frames. Keep a constant watch on the young trees that they are not barked and destroyed by ground mice, rabbits and other enemies to tender trees and plants.

SOOT.—Soot is a most valuable manure, either for grass or for turnips, as it quickly forces the plants into leaf; and, if scattered over the young plants, it prevents the fly from committing its ravages. It is also excellent for destroying the grub in onion beds.

CARE OF GRINDSTONES.—A grindstone should not be exposed to the weather, as it not only injures the wood-work, but the sun's rays harden the stone and render it useless. Neither should it stand in the water in which it runs, as the part remaining in water softens so much that it wears unequally.

GUANO.—Of guano, as a permanent fertilizer, there is some doubt; but as a stimulant of growing crops, on good soil, it is invaluable, either on grass or arable lands.

The English and continental farmers know the value of bone dust, and the Americans will soon find it out,

For the Maryland Farmer.

THE AGRICULTURAL INTEREST
VIEWED FROM THE TRUE STANDPOINT.

BY J. WILKINSON,

Rural Architect, Landscape Gardener, and Consulting
Agriculturist, Baltimore, Md.

"A PRINCIPLE IN SCIENCE IS A RULE IN ART."

Agriculture represents the most important, as well as the most exalted of all our temporal interests; it is conceded to be paramount to all else that pertain to national wealth.

The prosperity of all other arts is proportionate to that of this parent art.

As a science, its scope is immeasurably great, and its value to our race being co-extensive and co-equal with the extent and magnitude of the interest, it is not easy to account for the indifference of both individuals and nations to its proper and merited development, unless it is attributable to the general lack of intellectual cultivation of the mass of those directly interested and engaged in the pursuit.

Capital seems to seek investment in almost anything else in preference to land and its culture.

The reasons generally assigned for such preference, are that "gain from it is too slow," that "it is dull and monotonous;" that "it is a life of continuous drudgery." I might quote numerous other equally erroneous reasons assigned for not engaging in farming as a pursuit by those who possess the one great essential to success in it, viz. capital; but to answer and refute those enumerated, will consume all the space that it would be proper to devote to it.

We will grant that the cash profit annually realized, even from a good farm, eligibly located, prudently invested in, and judiciously and skilfully managed, in the use of sufficient capital to avail of the advantages it provides, may not be as great as may be shown to have been derived from an equal amount of capital, invested in some other interests in a single year, or even in a decade.

But, if we make the comparison between the farm investment and that in an average of the manufacturing and commercial industries, in which a similar amount of capital is invested and employed, for a longer period, so that we embrace times like the present, or even those of less striking depression and financial derangement, and compare the general result from the respective investments for the more protracted period, we shall find it greatly in favor of the former, under a judicious system of production.

In the comparison of the revenue from the farm

with other interests, by many denizens of the country, and such as derive their livelihood from the farm, due allowance is rarely made for what is consumed in various ways, which is not unfrequently of greater value than the products sold. House rent, food, pleasure equipage, horses, carriages, &c., &c., are rarely fully credited as proceeds of the farm; if they were, the showing would be quite different, and it would often be found that the income proper from the farm would be surprisingly large.

The farm is supposed to have been judiciously purchased and managed, and if it be so, there will be an increase of value to be annually credited to the investment in it, arising from growth and increase of value of fruit trees, and of timber, in addition to the ordinary augmentation of the value of the land, which, if well located, and other conditions intimated have been observed, will, by the rise alone be an item of no little note. On nearly every farm there are uneven, or what are called waste places, that may be planted, or allowed to grow spontaneously valuable timber, which has often shown a greater net profit in a period of 20 years, from that portion considered "waste," than from the same area of the same farm considered most valuable for cropping. In rearing a family on the farm there are direct pecuniary advantages to be derived from the greater salubrity of the country, as compared with the city, in the way of doctor bills saved; and certainly the great moral superiority should not be lost sight of, though it is of such magnitude that it cannot be estimated in a pecuniary calculation. It is true that the direct profits of the farm are never as great as they sometimes are in some other industries; but this characteristic of the landed estate is one of the greatest, if not its greatest recommendation, and should attract capital into that channel.

Intelligent observation has established the fact that suddenly acquired wealth, or great, sudden gains, are, as a rule, a misfortune, and that wealth so gained is often productive of perpetual discontent ever after; than which nothing is less to be coveted. The sudden acquisition of wealth very frequently engenders extravagance, and not unfrequently, ruinous prodigality. How many striking examples might be cited of such effects, and the misery it has entailed on the families that have been branded "shoddy," who made fabulous ephemeral fortunes out of that dire national calamity, our late civil war.

The principle and the effect seems to be the same, wherever or however great wealth is suddenly obtained.

The desirable opposite, is the legitimate and

usual effect of slow gains, secured through persistent, honest industry, and frugality untainted by parsimony. Numerous are the examples of such a happy possession, securely hedging about those farmers and their families, who have been so fortunate as to have acquired a farm and abundant means with which to profitably conduct it; and who have never been so unfortunate as to make any sudden growth in wealth, with its usual concomitant discontent. The greatest moral security attainable is found in the condition of such as live and move under such influences, and amid such surroundings. Every tendency of the rural pursuit, conducted intelligently, is elevating and refining, and should, and evidently does enable those engaged in it, through the pure elements of nature, with which the ruralist is continually and familiarly associated, to look to the God of nature with reliant Christian confidence and faith.

If we analize the second objection urged to the pursuit of agriculture, viz. that the farm is "dull and monotonous," we find it equally baseless and erroneous.

Nothing could be farther from the truth to those who possess a farm under the circumstances that I have advocated, i. e. the fee simple of a good farm, well stocked and equiped, with a sufficiency of cash capital to be able to employ a proper force of labor at all times, to use the fertilizers required, to lay in extra stock for the consumption of extra products; to take advantage of the misfortunes of others less sagacious and less provident; and to hold and carry grain, stock or other products for a propitious market; and all other advantages derivable from intelligence and ample means with which to conduct the farm to the best advantage. With these facilities, ample means, and a knowledge of both the science and art of husbandry, it is at once enveloped in a degree of interest commensurate with the importance of the time-honored, and all-essential vocation. If the maxim be true, that "variety is the spice of life," the occupation of the really intelligent farmer is continually and highly spiced; it is the very opposite of monotony; it is ever changing, and abounds with features of superlative interest.

The waxing and waning of the season of growth from incipiency to maturity, from the germination of the seed, the shooting of the blade, till the ripe ear admonishes the reaper to garner it, prevent waste, and store for domestic use and for market the many fold yield and return for the seed and labor entrusted to Him whose unfailing promise of "seed-time and harvest" has again been verified, is anything but monotonous, or wanting in interest.

The prominent reason why so erroneous an

opinion has gained so great popularity, as that farming is "dull and monotonous," is the great lack of a knowledge of the principles and laws which govern vegetable growth and decay, each being equally important; and the want of thorough practical intelligence in conducting the practical operations of the farm in which new features of detail, requiring intelligence, experience, and skill to properly modify, and so apply them as to insure certain results, are continually presented. In the full possession and application of these essentials, every operation, however simple or minor it may be considered, is replete with interest and the elements of success.

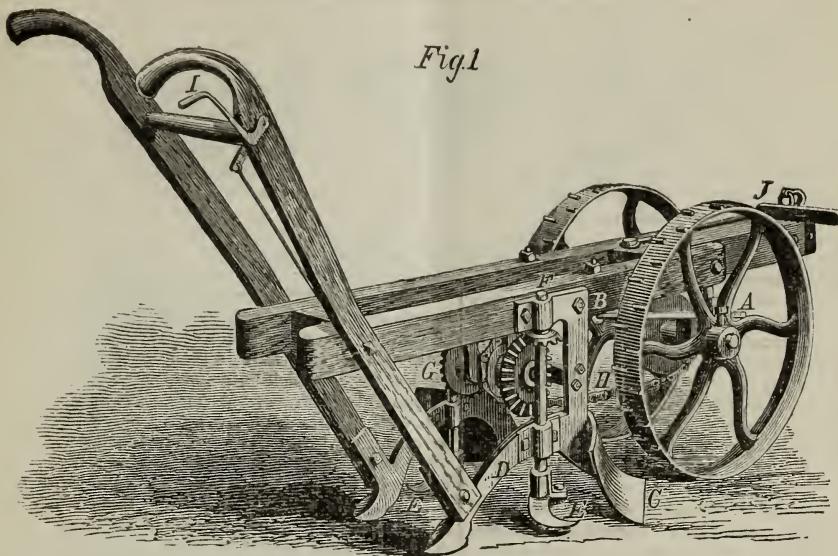
To such as denounce the pursuit as "*continuous drudgery*," I would simply state, that it is never necessarily "drudgery," or ignoble toil; on the contrary, the labor of every branch of the great variety embraced in mixed husbandry, carried to the fullest extent practicable, if conducted as it should be; if performed in season, in the use of the best known facilities, and the operator is guided by the alluring light of science, every branch of it will be lightened, and to such as have proper industry, it will be found to be real pleasure rather than drudgery.

THE PEANUT AS FOOD.—The value of the peanut seems to be only partially recognized by farmers. The African nut is largely raised for its yield of oil, while the refuse cake is used in England under the name of "earth-nut cake" as food for fattening cattle. I observe that Dr. Muter, in *The Food Journal*, strongly recommends it as an article of human diet. From its richness in albuminoids or flesh-forming substances, as well as in oil, it would furnish a valuable food for stock. For hogs it might be grown and left for them to harvest with an economy equal to that of the plan of growing turnips for sheep to consume on the ground. A crop of 60 bushels per acre could be grown with much less labor than an equal crop of corn, and the yield in pork, even were it no larger than that from a crop of corn, could be made at a far less cost in labor. Doubtless the substitution could be effected over a wide extent of our territory with very great profit. In addition to the nuts the vines themselves are of account as a valuable article of fodder, either green or dried.—*H. S., Norfolk, Va.*

NEW MARKET FOR CORN.—American corn is now largely used in the manufacture of alcohol in Germany and Italy, the exports to those countries during the last five months having reached nearly a million bushels.

THE DIAMOND COTTON CHOPPER AND CULTIVATOR.

Fig 1



For the Maryland Farmer.

THE DIAMOND COTTON CHOPPER AND
CULTIVATOR.

Before describing this great labor saver invention and its claims and advantages, it is perhaps advisable to show the ordinary mode of cultivating Cotton and thus ascertain what amount of labor can be saved. Ground cannot be too well prepared for cotton. It should be broken up deep and thoroughly, as early after the cotton is gathered as possible. Cotton should be planted early in the spring. The planting is usually in drills, chiefly because of the difficulty of obtaining good stands in hills. Very soon after the plant makes its appearance, the barring or scraping begins. This should be as soon as enough cotton is up to make a stand. This operation is performed by light plows or scrapers, which bar or scrape the bed on each side to within an inch or two of the plant. The chief object is to keep down the grass, which is the greatest enemy of cotton. Hence, the barring commences at as early a stage as possible. Next comes the "blocking out" or "chopping." Behind each plow follows four hoe hands. Their duty is to chop out the surplus cotton, so as to leave little groups of the young plant, either at the right distance, or else leaving twice as many groups as are necessary that is a double stand, every other one of which is afterwards chopped out. And here it is to be remembered, that it is essential to the success of the crop, that this chopping should be done at the proper season. It must be done promptly, otherwise the plants grow up too thick, and are yellow, small and worthless. Hence it is, that the chopping season is the most trying time to the cotton planter. The chopper-hand appreciating the urgent necessities of the planters, dictates his own terms. More or less

earth is taken from the young plants in barring and chopping. This must be replaced as soon as possible. It is common to do this with bull-tongue or other suitable plows, running on each side of the row. They are used immediately after the chopping, and thus the cotton is "earthed" or "dirted," for its protection and subsequent nourishment.

For the rest of the season the cultivation is carried on by means of sweeps and harrows—very seldom a turning plow, the prime object being to keep down the grass. These sweeps are drawn over the surface between the rows, tearing up and killing the grass and weeds and working the cotton.

Of course there are other methods of cultivation which are very good, and which perhaps are better than that detailed above for particular characters of soil. But this method is the one in most general use throughout the Cotton States. Having briefly described this method, we will now show in what manner and to what extent the labor may be lessened.

The Diamond Cotton Chopper and Cultivator, with one man and horse, chops out the cotton at regular intervals, scrapes it on both sides and effectually weeds it at the same time, throwing the soil loosely around the young plant for its protection, thus doing the work of two men and horses required for barring the cotton, of the choppers who ordinarily follow two plows, and of the men and horses required to dirt the cotton. The hills of cotton are left in a *Diamond* shape, about twelve inches apart, a distance adopted as likely to suit most of the cotton lands of the South. Upon highly improved lands, every other hill may be chopped out with the hoe at a second working; or, if preferred, an extra pulley may be adjusted, which will make the spaces fifteen inches. The work done by it is superior, in many respects, to that

done by the hoe in the first working of cotton. After the chopping the machine may be used to great advantage as a cultivator. The chopping apparatus may be taken out, the two steel wings removed and sweeps or other cultivators of any description may be attached, with which the cultivation may be carried on to great advantage throughout the season. The chopper is converted into a harrow sweep, which is superior to any sweep now in use—a sweep that will not skip or dance upon the ground, but being set at any required depth, is held steady and true to its work.

THE MACHINE IS ADJUSTABLE IN ALL ITS PARTS.

The wings or scrapers may be set at any required depth, and the choppers in such a manner as to leave as little or as much cotton standing as may be required. The chopping apparatus may be locked at pleasure and thus made to pass over a very thin stand of cotton without chopping it out, but simply cultivating it. With the same ease, the choppers may be set in motion again, when the thin place shall have been passed. *The Machine is very simple, strong, and durable.* It is of very light draft, is easily guided, and may be turned short at the end of a row.

It is hard to realize the amount of labor saved by one of these machines. Invented eighteen months ago, though patented but recently, the chopper has been submitted to thorough practical tests upon a growing crop, and if we may rely upon the testimony of our most intelligent and reliable cotton planters, it is a complete success in every sense of the word, and will do all that is claimed for it.

We are informed that it was exhibited at most of the southern fairs last fall, where it uniformly attracted great attention, and bore off the highest honors. The gold medal of the Georgia State Fair was awarded to it as the most important and valuable improvement in agricultural implements, and a similar premium was awarded to it at the North Carolina State Fair.

A particular description of the implement here may not be out of place.

Fig. I, is a perspective view; A, is a U-shaped bar hinged to the underside of the frame at B, and has on its lower side, bearings in which the axle of the drive wheels turns. A screw bolt connects the front end of the bar A, with the front prolongation of the frame, and serves to adjust it at various elevations, in order to regulate the depth of the cultivator plows. The latter are represented at C, and are bolted to a projecting plate of a standard made in the same piece with the curved and concaved chopper bar, D. The plows in Fig. I are used at the first working of the cotton crop.

At E are horizontal chopping knives attached to a cutter stock, which is adjustable by means of a sleeve on the vertical shaft F. By the bevel gear G, the latter engages with a horizontal shaft. This arrangement is duplicated on the opposite side of the machine.

On this horizontal shaft, between the bevel gear, G. G., is a pulley which is connected with a larger pulley on the axle between the driver wheels, by means of a driver chain H, and thus the chopping knives E. E. derive their motion. These knives move in and out together. They make one revolution every twelve inches the machine advances. They revolve so as to cut with their convex

edge, going into the row from the rear next to the heel, and coming out of the row next to the plow, cutting forward. These knives being moved forward at the same time they are rotated, pass through the ground about a quarter of an inch below the surface, cutting up the surplus plants, and weeding out the grass, leaving hills of plants at regular intervals. The centrifugal force of the knives throwing the dirt around the young cotton that is left, in a perfect and satisfactory manner. The knives are bolted to the cutter-heads in such a manner as that they may be shortened or lengthened and thus made to increase or diminish the quantity of cotton left in the hill as may be desired.

When no thinning or chopping is necessary the knives are locked in position out side of the row, and under cover of the plows they thus leave all the plants standing. This is done by a pressure on the handle I., which connects with a lever and a very simple device on the horizontal shaft. Upon relieving the pressure, the knives commence again to rotate and do the chopping or thinning as before.

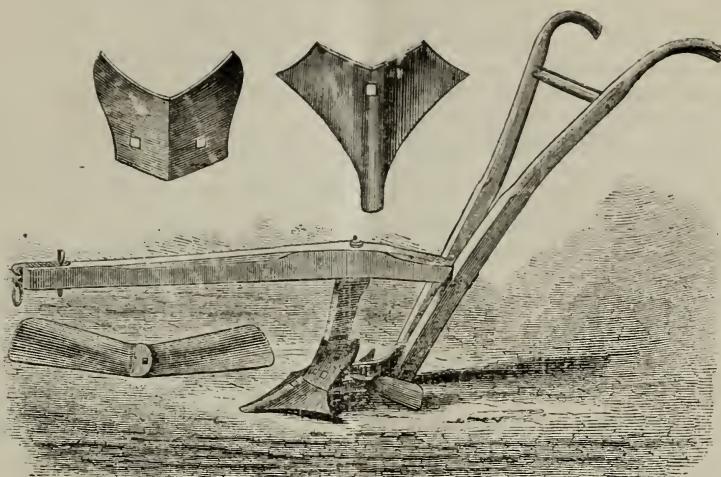
The clevis rod J, to which the horse is attached is adjustable, so that he may work on either side of the plank without injuring them while the machine runs immediately over the row. This machine, although designed for a cotton chopper, is adapted to thinning out and cultivating any crop which is sown in drills, and which is reduced to hills twelve inches apart. By a change of gearing the intervals may be increased or diminished.

The letters patent are owned by an incorporated company, known as the "Diamond Cotton Chopper and Cultivator Company," having its principal office at Fayetteville, N. C., to which all letters can be addressed. Arrangements have been made to put up a large number of these machines for the coming season.

NIGHT SOIL.—Night soil is a valuable and extremely powerful manure, richer in nitrogen than horse or cow dung. It should be deodorized before using, by sulphate of iron or powdered charcoal. The use of charcoal for the purpose of deodorizing night soil is attended with peculiar advantages, as it is of itself, from causes not entirely ascertained, one of the best auxiliary manures known to agriculture. Wherever charcoal is present to a considerable amount in the soil, there grapes and all kinds of fruits flourish luxuriantly and mildew is unknown. Charcoal and gypsum are the best deodorizers of night soil, as they both fix the ammonia. Lime should never be used with night soil, nor indeed in the composting of any animal excrements, as it drives off the ammonia. As before stated, plants take up their food in the liquid and gaseous condition, which, of itself, shows conclusively that the urine of all animals should be given to the soil.

CHARCOAL FOR HOGS is frequently prescribed in agricultural papers, without any directions as to quantity. It should not be given carelessly and at random. Good fresh charcoal, properly pulverized may be given at the rate of one teaspoonful for every hundred pounds of animal, whatever its size may be, and at this rate will do no harm nor scour the animals, and may be often very useful.—*Country Gentleman.*

NEW COTTON PLOW.



The above cut represents Whitman & Sons' new Cotton Plow, in perfecting which they have spent considerable time and money during the past two years, and are now satisfied that it will meet the wants of the cotton planter. It is represented as remarkably simple, durable, and of easy draft, and better adapted to the culture of Cotton than any other plow now used for that purpose, whilst the price of the same does not exceed the most ordinary Cotton Plow now used in the South.

There is no doubt that a good cotton plow is much needed, and if the Messrs. Whitman & Sons have achieved the end so much desired, and perfected a plow for the cultivation of cotton which will commend itself to planters, they will have become great benefactors. This Plow, with the "Diamond Cotton Chopper and Cultivator,"—a description of which will be found elsewhere—will greatly lessen the labor of cotton cultivation. A description and price of the plow will be found in our advertising columns.

FIVE BALES OF COTTON TO THE ACRE.

Mr. T. C. Warthen, of Washington county, Ga., who made five bales of cotton on one acre of land, furnishes the *Sandersville Herald* with the following account of the land, its preparation, manuring, cultivation, &c. He says:

"The soil is sandy, with clay subsoil; has been in cultivation for 60 or 80 years, I suppose. About half of the acre was an old dung-hill, the other half very poor before manuring. The guano I used was Kettlewell's AA, or Phospho-Peruvian, 1,400 pounds; raw pine-straw, from the woods, 60 ox cart loads; green cotton seed, 60 bushels; stable manure, well rotted, 400 bushels. The pine-straw, cotton seed and stable manure, I hauled out in January and strewed broadcast over the land, then turned under with a two horse plow, breaking eight inches deep. Then with a sixteen inch scooter run in the two horse furrow, breaking from 5 to 7 inches; in the whole 13 to 15 inches deep. I then followed in the scooter furrow with the guano, or subsoil furrow, so on till completed. In February, I repeated the breaking in the same manner, leaving off manuring. In March, the

same again, breaking each time cross-wise, or in opposite directions. In April, I harrowed the land twice, to level the soil, and destroy the young vegetation. Then I checked off my rows three feet each way, with a small bull-tongue plow, and on the 13th of May, I planted my cotton seed in the hill, six or eight inches deep, dropped by hand, covered with the foot; the seed when covered being on a level. The seed were the "Cluster Cotton" variety. I purchased them from David Dickson, Esq., Oxford, Ga., to whom I must confess I am indebted for my success, to a certain extent. The seed, I am confident, were half the battle. The cotton was thinned to one stalk to the hill in June, with the exception of the outside rows, in which I left two stalks. Then I plowed with 24-inch sweep, 'Dicksons,' very shallow, one furrow to the row, and about eight days afterward, I repeated the same, running one furrow to the row, scraping the earth enough to destroy the young weeds and grass. Did not use a hoe in it, in order to avoid skinning the cotton, in fact, had no use for any, as the cotton grew so fast the shade thereof prevented all vegetation from growing underneath."

PREMIUM POTATOES.

Last spring Messrs. Bliss & Sons, the celebrated Seed dealers in New York city, offered \$500 in premiums for the most successful culture of the Early Vermont and Compton Surprise, two new kinds of potatoes they desired to disseminate, on condition that the contestants for premiums should make oath that their statements as to mode of culture, &c., and product, was true, and that they had resorted to no method of propagation other than the usual one of planting; no forcing or propagating from slips, &c.

The result has been determined and is the most remarkable in the history of the Potato plant. The successful candidates were as follows, which we take from the *New York Tribune*.

EARLY VERMONT.

First premium, \$100, to J. I. Salter, St. Cloud, Stearns county, Minn., 609 pounds.

Second premium, \$75, to H. C. Pearson, Pitcairn, St. Lawrence county, N. Y., 487 pounds.

Third premium, \$50, to J. L. Perkins, Little Sioux, Harrison county, Iowa, 393½ pounds.

Fourth premium, \$25, to Thomas J. McLeod, Black Brook, Clinton county, N. Y., 380 pounds.

COMPTON'S SURPRISE.

First premium, \$100, to Abednego Robinson, New Market, Rockingham county, N. H., 511½ pounds.

Second premium, \$75, to H. C. Pearson, Pitcairn, St. Lawrence county, N. Y., 450 pounds.

Third premium, \$50, to J. I. Salter, St. Cloud, Stearns county, Minn., 394 pounds.

Fourth premium, \$25, to Franklin A. Smith, Stone Church, Northumberland county, Penn., 386 pounds.

The most conspicuous of the competitors who just failed of securing the premiums, but whose success was highly creditable and deserving of honorable mention, are included in the following list:

POUNDS.—*Early Surprise.*

Vt. p is e

A. W. Titus, Wilmington, Windham Co., Vermont	251	370
Saml. Neal, Wyocena, Columbia Co. Wis., 320	320	276
E. S. Brownell, Essex Junction, Chittenden Co., Vermont	335	363½
Leonard Wood, Morrisville, Lamoille Co., Vermont	228 ¼	320 ¼
H. P. Sharpless, Fairville, Chester Co., Pa.	338 ½	
Eugene E. Graves, Black River, Jefferson Co., N. Y.	325 ¾	
James R. Aten, Belvidere, Warren Co., N. J.	350	
David R. Wood, Morrisville, Lamoille Co., Vermont	369 ½	
Fred'k Seiler, Verono, Essex Co., N. J.	181	384 ½
H. S. Goodale, South Egremont, Berkshire Co., Mass.	319 ¾	
Rob't Sutor, Brady, Indiana Co., Penn.	336	...
Chas. Whiting, Jasper, Steuben Co., N. Y.	307	...

This is another incontestable evidence of what can be done by way of increasing production by the application of skill and industry, in selecting good seed, suitable soil, heavy manuring with the sort of manure or fertilizer especially adapted to the particular crop, and judicious, thorough cultivation of the plant. The same identical processes which made 1 lb. yield 609 lbs. could make 100 bushels yield in like proportion. This contest extending among hundreds in some 28 States and Territories, teaches a great and grand lesson to

old as well as to young farmers, which they should not be slow to take advantage of. The first premium was given for a yield at the rate of over 1000 bushels per acre, supposing only 1 barrel of potatoes, cut to single eye is enough seed for one acre.

GREAT CORN CROP IN CARROLL CO.

We copy from the Westminster *Advocate*, the following account of the great corn crop grown this year by Mr. John W. Murray, of Hampstead District, Carroll County, Md., with the mode of cultivation. Mr. Murray says:

I will give you the amount of corn produced, and the mode of cultivating the same. The land is low and is overflowed by the washings from the turnpike and from my barnyard, and was in grass for fifteen years prior to the spring of 1872; then plowed and planted in corn, and yielded 26½ barrels per acre. This was the same piece of ground that I used last year. The stubble was left until I had planted all the rest of my corn. On May 16th, 1873, I plowed the ground very deep, harrowed it the same day, and rolled it on the 17th. I sowed 300 lbs. fine bone, and harrowed it again the same day. I marked it off 32 inches one way, and sowed 200 lbs. Rhode's super phosphate in the rows, and dropped the corn 10 inches apart, one and two grains in a hill. On the 4th of June it was badly missing; dragged the ground and replanted; 10th of June plowed and still some missing; 17th of June plowed and hoed, and plastered the weak spots; 30th of June dragged, plowed and thinned it; 4th of July hilled it with a potato plow, as deep as one horse could pull, and kept thinning as I thought it required, until shooting time. The variety of corn was the Chester County Mammoth Yellow.

In regard to the yield: the ground was surveyed by a practical sworn surveyor, cut off by two sworn men and measured by a sworn man, in the presence of many others, and measured 29 9-10 barrels, and the same measured at the cattle scales in Baltimore, made 30½ barrels for which I hold receipt, which is annexed. If any persons doubt the yield, let them come forward, and they can be accommodated with a bet from one hundred to a thousand dollars. I thought, and still think, I was contending for a \$50 prize, offered by our Agricultural Society, and unless some of my Carroll county friends beat me, as my Baltimore county friend did last year, I think I am entitled to the prize; but if any of my county friends beat me, I will be glad to see them. I am not a one acre farmer, but cultivate forty acres, with myself and three boys, or perhaps I could have given the one acre more attention, and had a larger yield, which I believe could have been done.

ANOTHER BIG CROP.—We see from the Washington (Pa.) Reporter, that a committee of the Washington County (Pa.) Agricultural Society reports that James W. Dickey, of that county, raised on fifteen acres (actual measurement) the enormous aggregate of twenty-five hundred and thirty-five and three-fourth bushels of shelled corn—or one hundred and sixty-nine bushels of shelled corn to the acre. This beats friend Murray's crop about 16½ bushels,

TOBACCO CULTURE.

MORE ABOUT TOBACCO.

We find in the "Tobacco Leaf," the following suggestions from a committee of dealers in tobacco, in Syracuse, (N. Y.) which they think, if followed, would enhance the price. The entire article is unnecessary to be inserted as it relates to the system of growing this plant and its preparation for market in a way very different from what is pursued by the planters among whom our journal circulates and is unsuited to their wants. There are some directions, however, which every tobacco grower, everywhere, would do well to practice, and we give them for the consideration of our readers, that they may see how the New Yorkers manage a crop, which only of late years has been grown in that State, but which is becoming a speciality with hundreds of farmers who make only 10 to 50 cases each. A case is a box of pine lumber one inch thick, well seasoned, with two inch corner pieces, well nailed, 3 feet 6 inches long; 2 feet 6 inches wide, 2 feet 6 inches high, holding 350 to 400 lbs. One would think the cases cost almost as much as the tobacco would bring, but it is there a profitable crop we learn.

There are some excellent hints in the following but not new to our most successful and most careful cultivators of this plant:

TAKING THE PLANTS DOWN.

Take the plants down only when you are satisfied they are thoroughly cured, and when the weather is moist, with a favorable air for moistening the leaf to condition. The stem of the leaf should be thoroughly dried out before taking the plants from the poles. Take down with great care, and commence stripping immediately after taking down to prevent the heating and consequent matting of the leaf in the stalk bank. A new method of stripping is suggested simply by stripping the leaves off the stalks as fast as you take them down from the poles, and then tie them up in bunches say of three or four pounds each, and immediately put them in the cases for future assorting and hanking at your leisure. Heating and matting of the leaf in this way will be prevented.

STRIPPING.

Strip in three qualities—unless the crop is too poor to warrant you in doing so. Strip the first quality so the leaves will be of uniform length and size in the same hank, selecting all the nearly or perfect leaves, and leaving out the imperfect ones for the

SECOND QUALITY.

The poor, inferior, and "ground leaves" should be placed in the

THIRD QUALITY.

"Fat tobacco" should not, under any circumstances, be put into any quality whatever. Throw it

away with the stalks. If, as sometimes may be the case, you chance to have tobacco on hand too wet to be merchantable, place all such leaf by itself. Do not mix it with any tobacco in condition. Never spray, or sprinkle, nor wet tobacco. Water will most certainly spoil it. Besides it will "water streak it," and permanently injure the texture and market value of the leaf. Steam kettles in stripping-rooms should be avoided. The steam destroys the leaf, causing it to turn black.

SIZE OF THE HANKS.

They should not exceed one and one-fourth inches through at the butts. Make them small, neat and uniform in size. Put seventeen to twenty-three leaves into a hank, according to the growth of the tobacco. Do not bind the butts with wet or fat leaves.

PLACING THEM IN THE BANKS.

Bank the first quality immediately after it is stripped, so it will not dry out. Manage the other qualities with the same caution. Bank in a dry and secure place. Place the hanks one by one in a round, straight form into the bank as nicely and neatly as your skill can direct you. Give the butts air on either side of the bank. Place good coverings over the top of the banks with suitable weights to hold the boards in their places. Strip tobacco as early in the Fall or Winter as its condition will allow, and endeavor not to delay the stripping too long. Too long a delay in stripping is apt to make several conditions of the leaf—some dry and some over dry leaf. If possible make the leaf uniform in respect to moisture. Do not allow the leaf to

SWEAT IN THE BANK.

If tobacco shall sweat in the bank, the leaf is apt to be "stringy," especially if the bank is overhauled or handled when it is in a sweat.

CASING.

Tobacco should be put into cases when the weather is warm and moist, and with the utmost care. The tobacco should be weighed in, and the case should also be exactly weighed. * * *

In throwing out these hints, we trust they may reach the ears of tobacco-growers, hoping that they will agree with us that nothing will pay the tobacco-grower better than to strip his leaf cautiously, faithfully, nicely, and with a view to get a good price for his tobacco, by reason of his having performed the work of stripping and casing thoroughly and well.

FINE HOGS.—Hog killing has begun earlier this season than usual, and we have been furnished with the weights of some. E. Lynch, five weighing 436, 407, 392, 273, 350, total 1968; E. O. Grimes, three, 14 months old, 336, 402, 413, total 1151; Daniel Bush, six, 325, 249, 360, 311, 315, 293; Albert Thompson, New Windsor, two, 456, 362; Louis Dielman, same place, four weighing 1147.—*Westminster Advocate.*

PROLIFIC.—John T. Baxter, of Finksburg district, Carroll county, raised from half-bushel seed potatoes, 18 bushels. They are of the Peerless variety. So says the *Advocate* man.

The Poultry House.

For the Maryland Farmer.

POULTRY BREEDING.

NUMBER ONE.

The series of articles which I purpose to present to the readers of the FARMER, are not so much intended for poultry breeders and fanciers, as for amateurs, and farmers who have given this subject little or no thought. To the former class I may not be able to suggest anything strikingly new, nor to the latter any thing very novel, but the knowledge resulting from upwards of twenty years experience in breeding poultry—during which time the writer has kept, and experimented with, over forty varieties of fowls—can hardly fail to be of benefit to some of the many readers of this journal.

Poultry breeding has now come to be regarded as important a branch of farm industry as the raising of swine or sheep. In one sense it is of more importance, in that it is not every farmer who can keep sheep or swine with advantage, but every one who owns or rents a plot of land, if only the size of a city lot, can keep a few head of poultry with both pleasure and profit. When we take into consideration the vast numbers of eggs, annually consumed in the United States—the city of New York alone, using during the year 1872 upwards of 340,000,000, costing at wholesale about \$6,292,000—and when we note the immense number of tons of poultry sold in all the large cities of the Union, we cannot call the poultry interest one of *minor* importance. And yet it is but a few years since that the name of *Poultry Breeder* seemed to convey an idea of insignificance, or as our Southern friends would call it "*a picayune business*." Now, however, the proprietors of large stock farms have their flocks of pure bred fowls, which get their share of attention and study, as well as the horned cattle and horses; and the net income from a well managed poultry yard is no small addition to the farm receipts. One Ohio breeder, whom we now think of, stated that his sales of poultry and eggs for 1872 amounted to over \$7,000—and there are scores of others who yearly assert that the poultry pay by far the largest dividend of any farm stock.

This was not the case under the old foggy system of keeping fowls. Then the fowls were allowed to have unlimited range and limited feed; in fact, they foraged for themselves; they were seldom or never fed, and roosted wherever they could find a place; under the hovels, on the carts, plows, harrows, wagons, in the trees and on the fences.—Periodical egg hunts were indulged in by the

younger members of the family; the hens stole their nests and when they came forth with their broods they were tied by the leg to a peg in the ground and given an old barrel to protect them from storms until the chicks were a few weeks old, and then all were turned loose to find their own living. Yet these same old foggy farmers complained that *chickens didn't pay*. Doubtless there are some of my readers who sing the same tune, as all the old fogys are not dead yet—and they tell us: "well, the fowls now are bigger than they used to be, and so you get more money for them."

Yes, my friend, and you are indebted for the increased size of both fowls and eggs to the very persons whom you ridicule—the poultry fanciers and breeders, who by introducing the improved varieties of fowls, and judiciously breeding them, as well as by crossing them on the common stock, have nearly doubled the weight of the fowls, and more than doubled the annual yield of eggs per head, as well as increased their size.

Twenty years ago, twelve eggs to the pound was thought a maximum weight; now, eight and nine to the pound are common, and cases of seven, and even six, are not infrequent—and still the limit is not yet reached. Annually we hear of still greater weights being attained, and still larger eggs, and in greater numbers obtained. Within the past year the writer has seen a Partridge Cochin cock weighing sixteen pounds, and a Light Brahma cock, which afterwards weighed nearly eighteen pounds, the owner of which considers even that weight inferior to what he will reach with some of the progeny of the above—and in a poultry journal of late date a correspondent states that he has a Dark Brahma hen that has laid 299 eggs within the year. Of course, these are exceptional cases; but ten years hence may we not look back to them, and view them in the same light as we now do the specimens of ten years ago. During the present century the weight of Southdown sheep, fattened for the butcher, has been trebled. What has been done with one species of the animal kingdom, is not impossible with another; and there seems no reason for believing that we have attained the limit to progression in the improvement of poultry.

In this view, the Poultry Fancier is a national benefactor, for he has been the direct means of producing two eggs where one was produced before, and of growing two pounds of flesh, to one raised in former years.

A. M. HALSTEAD.

The fumes of a brimstone match will remove berry stains from a book or paper engraving.

CHEESE.

Feeling as we do a deep interest in all matters appertaining to the welfare of the farming community, and believing that Cheese Factories would diversify the labors of the husbandman and be of general benefit to the community in which it was erected, and that it would be a home market for all the milk that could be furnished for miles around, and also add greatly to the increased amount of pork, we prepared an article last month on the subject of Cheese-making. We now follow it up with the following extracts that are practical and very instructive to all who feel an interest in this subject. The first is from the *Manufacturer and Builder*, giving estimates of the cost of a small cheese factory, such as a farmer might erect alone, or such as might be established by several together:

For 100 cows, a building 60x26 feet, with 16-feet posts, making it two stories, would be required. Take 24 feet from the lower story for a "make-room," leaving the remainder and the upper story for "curing rooms." The upper portion should be partitioned the same as the lower. The 24-foot room over the "make-room" should be plastered and furnished with stoves suitable for curing early and late cheese. The cost depends upon the price of lumber and labor, which differs in localities. A rough, substantial building, which will answer in every respect in most localities, would cost \$1,000. If finished with paint, etc., \$1,300. It could be furnished with vat, tank, presses, hoops, scales, etc., for \$300, making in all \$1,300 for rough building, and \$1,600 for the finished one. For 200 cows, the same sized building would answer. For vat and fixtures, \$500, making in all \$1,500 for rough, and \$1,800 for finished building. This is the size of many that were built in this State this season. Stock companies are formed by those interested taking one or more shares, which may be \$50 or \$100 each. A committee is chosen by the shareholders, who superintend the building of the factory, hiring of help, etc. A dairy of 100 cows can be managed by a man of experience, with additional help, who could be hired at from \$2 to \$3 per day and board. For 200 cows, he would want an additional hand, which might be a woman, and inexperienced. The question is often asked—How many cows must a factory number, to pay? For an individual to build a factory to work up milk for others, at \$2 per hundred, which is the common price of making and furnishing the cheese all boxed and ready for market, he would want 300 cows or more, to make it a paying business. As with an individual, so with a stock company, to make the stock pay good dividends. But by the plan given, the farmers build the factory themselves for the purpose of working up their own milk, which is quite a saving to them over the old way, both in expense and quality of cheese. If the price named will not pay as good interest as is just to the stockholders, the price of making should be advanced. As the patrons are the owners of

the factory, they can always fix a price that will do justice to all parties.

The following is a description of the Eagle Factory, lately started in Herkimer county, New York. The writer, Mr. C. Schermerhorn, has been identified with these cheese factories ever since they were originated in Western New York. We copy from the *Utica Herald*:

"This Factory is a new one, erected this last spring, and is situated in the valley of the West Canada creek, about three miles northwest of Herkimer, Herkimer county, New York. The factory is 34 by 90 feet, 2 stories high, and is large enough to make up the milk of 550 cows. It stands up several feet from the ground, to allow a free circulation of air underneath. The make-room is 32 by 34 feet; the floor has a pitch of 3 inches in 20 feet, from the weighing stand to the drain at the end of the vats, and from the presses 2 inches in 12 feet to the drain at the end of the vats. This drain is made tight and answers for two purposes; first, to carry the whey from the vats to the tank outside; second, to carry off all water from the floor which, by means of a gate or shoot, is turned in the brook that runs under the make-room of the factory, which carries off all impurities that would otherwise collect under the factory, and it is washed away to the West Canada creek, which is but a few rods distant.

The factory is supplied with spring water forced up to the factory in iron pipes, about 30 rods, by means of a three-fourths inch hydraulic ram; the temperature of the water in summer time, at the factory, varies from 60 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit. It being a new factory, the milk of 425 cows was received the first year. Of these the principal dairies were from the town of Herkimer, while several dairies come from the town of Fairfield. Some small dairies at a distance bring milk but once a day. So far, I have not experienced any difficulty from them. The milk is set at from 80 to 82 degrees Fahrenheit, and coagulated in about 50 minutes. When the curd has developed sufficient acidity, the whey is drawn off and the curd allowed to pack, being first cut in pieces about six or eight inches square and piled up at the sides of the vat. After it has sufficiently packed, it is run through a curd mill and salted at the rate of from two pounds to two and a quarter of salt to 1,000 lbs. of milk. This varies according to the time of year and amount of acidity developed. The cheese is sold on the Little Falls or Utica market, and has realized the highest prices. The yield of milk here this summer was below the average. Owing to the extreme drought, cows began to shrink in milk about fifteen days sooner than heretofore.—The pasture land is chiefly the rugged and steep hills, while the valley and the flats are the tillable land and meadows."

FIRST ADVERTISEMENT.—We see by a New York paper that there is a man in Troy who has done business about a year without expending a dollar in advertising. He has at last consented to advertise. His first advertisement was headed, "Sheriff's Sale."

TO CONSTRUCT ICE HOUSES.

A neighbor of mine has an enclosure about six feet square in the clear and six feet high. The walls are formed of old refuse timbers thrown carelessly together, with no regard to form or comeliness. The roof is made of hemlock boards. The entire cost of this building did not exceed five dollars, and practically considered it is a success—not ambitious of containing thirty-five loads, but simply five loads. Ten years this little, unpretentious house has been used for ice, and never yet dishonored a draft upon its crystal deposite. About six inches of sawdust was spread upon the ground floor, and in packing a space of about nine inches was left between the ice and the walls of the building for sawdust, and about nine inches of sawdust was spread upon the top of the ice, and the thing was fixed. The three main principles observed here will always insure a supply of ice, viz., good ventilation, good drainage, and plenty of sawdust. With these rules adhered to, a corner of any old open shed will prove quite efficient in preserving ice, at a cost of about five dollars.—*New England Homestead*.

An Ice house of the size given in the above extract, may be sufficient in dimensions for a family, wherever the climate is cold enough to freeze ice so thick it can be saved in blocks so as to be packed closely, but where it has to be put away pounded up, that it may form a mass, much larger dimensions must be looked to, so as to form a larger bulk of ice, or it will not keep, with all the charcoal or sawdust that may be used. We insert the article, because of the great importance to all our readers of such hints in the storing of ice, as a thick filling with straw or sawdust, at bottom and around the sides of the ice and the wooden walls; also the main principles to be observed to keep ice, viz. *good ventilation, good drainage, and plenty of sawdust*, which latter is far better than straw. These things strictly attended to would enable our country friends to have a full supply of ice the year round from half the quantity required to be put up, in the usually careless way in which it is done. At the present time it is a costly job to fill a house which holds fifty four-horse wagon loads. Properly managed, fifteen or twenty such loads would yield as much ice and for as long a time.

A correspondent of the *Cultivator and Country Gentleman* gives the following description of what he calls a Farmer's ice house—one that every farmer can have at a trifling expense:

"It is a crib ten feet by ten and a half inside, and eight feet high, and set directly on the surface of the ground; the posts are made of slabs and the sides are of the same, nailed on horizontally two or three inches apart. Cost of lumber, \$4; nails, fifty cents; labor done by a farm hand. Five three-horse loads of ice filled it. In filling, one

foot of sawdust was put in, and then a layer of ice one foot from the sides, the edges packed and the middle broken up a little, and as each layer was put in, sawdust was filled in between the ice and boards, and so on till the crib was filled. The top was finished rounding, and covered with a foot of sawdust, and pine boughs on that, to keep the wind from blowing it away, and has had no roof of any kind.

In the middle of one end, about one foot from the boards, is a dumb waiter case, fifteen inches square and ten feet high, inside of which is a dumb waiter two and a half feet long, fitted up with shelves for meat, butter, etc., and it has answered a good purpose."

In one of our exchanges, J. F. Doud, of Cass Co., Nebraska, gives the following as his plan of building an ice house:—

At any desired distance from your well dig a pit four feet deep, and eight or ten feet square. Place joist on the bottom, and fill between with sawdust. On these joist lay a good floor. Around the sides set joists about eight feet high. Fasten them well at the bottom, and spike your plate to the top of each joist. Board up on the inside, and tramp sawdust between the boards and the bank. When you get to the top of the ground, board up on both sides of the joist, and fill between with sawdust. Bank up the house with the dirt you threw out. When winter sets in fierce, dash in water in small quantities till the ice is two inches thick. After that pump in each day what will freeze, till you have a solid iceberg five or six feet thick, then cover with sawdust, and you will have ice all Summer. In warm weather remove the sawdust, and set on the ice your jars of butter, lard, or sausage, and put back the sawdust around the jars. A shallow box with a zinc bottom placed on the ice and covered with sawdust, will keep fresh meat a long time. When your iceberg is half made you can set on your pork and beef barrels and freeze them in. The brine will keep cool. When warm weather comes the iceberg will let go of the sides of the house, so that with an ax you can easily get pieces to use. It is a good place to make or keep ice-cream.

LEAVES FOR BARNYARD AND STABLE.

Forest leaves are excellent to supply the stables, yards, and where straw is scarce also the cow-stables and hog-pens. They can be most conveniently gathered after the first snow, or at least before the wintry blasts have scattered them. They then lay compactly, and being moist can be handled with greater facility. A cart with a few standards stuck in the sides will hold a considerable quantity; and the best thing to gather them or load them with is a wooden hand-rake; a wooden four-tined straw-fork is also very handy when the leaves are moist. Leaves absorb large quantities of the liquid manure and are an excellent fertilizer in the spring. They can be gathered, too, when other labor about the farm is slack.—*Germantown Telegraph*.

WILL FARMING PAY?

As evidence that farming will pay a correspondent in the Middletown (Del.) *Transcript*, submits the following, among other evidences of the fact:—

I desire by this communication to show the benefits and profits accruing from a small farm located in Queen Anne's Co., Maryland, near Millington, and on the line of the Queen Anne's and Kent Co., R. R., when properly, intelligently and economically managed.

Dr. Thos. H. Crane, about seven years ago, purchased a farm of sixty acres in the county above named at a cost of fifty dollars per acre. The land is all arable, but was very poor when the doctor bought it. He planted out peach, pear and apple trees—together with grapes and small fruits. He gave me the net receipts this year from this small farm, and if our farmers would turn their attention more to fruit raising, and abandon the practice, to a great extent, of grain growing, they would, as a class, be the most independent of all men, as the following successful farming will show, from a sixty acre farm:

Net profits from the sale of 1650 baskets of peaches sold by J. E. Slow, New York city,	\$2,250.00
1 acre of Concord Grapes, net.....	400.00
1 " " Strawberries, net.....	109.00
Net for Pears.....	136.00
175 bushels of corn, at 50 cts.....	87.50
30 " wheat, at \$1.60.....	48.00
10 " beans, at \$2.00.....	20.00
890 weight of pork, at 6 cts.....	48.00

In addition to the above may be safely added, for the fruit, butter, eggs and poultry, the Doctor used in his family living in town.....	100.00
	<hr/>

EXPENSES OF THE FARM FOR 1873:	
One man who resides in the farm house rent free, cash.....	\$140.00
Cash for one boy, 9 months	36.00
(These two laborers have all their meat, bread and vegetables raised on the farm.)	
Cash for day laborers.....	105.00
	<hr/>

RECAPITULATION:

Net sale from the farm.....	\$3,198.50
Cash paid for labor.....	\$281.00
Taxes for the year 1873.....	22.00
	<hr/>

\$2,895.50

Clear profits from the sixty acres, \$2,895.50, or within \$195 of the original cost of the farm. Now, when land can be made to produce such enormous profits, why not invest in it?

Instead of running after bogus stocks, and rushing to the city, stick to the farm, young man, and follow the example of Dr. Crane (learned as he is in his profession,) buy your land contiguous to a railroad, plant out fruit trees and small fruits, and instead of our farmers crying hard times and being money borrowers, they will soon be found seeking a place for their surplus capital.

If you want a new shoe to fit as easily as an old one put on two pairs of stockings before your measure is taken.

LIVE FENCES.

A correspondent in the *Farmer's Club*, Oxford, Pa., gives the following estimate relative to the comparative cost for eight years of live fence and other. He publishes it with the view of encouraging hedge-planting, which he considers so beneficial both for profit and appearance. The estimate is for the four sides of a 160 acre farm:—

Two miles hedge, 16,000 plants, \$1.25 per mile.	\$20 00
As a reserve to patch, 2,000 plants, \$1.25 per mile.....	2 50
Cost of ten days' planting at \$1 per day.....	10 00
Three years' attendance, \$26 per annum.....	60 00

Total.....	\$92 50
Money invested at ten per cent, compound interest, doubles between seventh and eighth year	92 50

Total cost of hedge for the eight years... Two miles of posts and five board fence, (posts 10c. each, boards \$20, per 1,000).....	\$185 00
Setting 640 rods fence, at 20c. per rod.....	128 00
Nails, two kgs.....	13 00

Total.....	\$781 00
Add for capital sunk, which, if invested, would have doubled in eight years at ten per cent.....	\$781 00

Total for post and board fence.....	\$1,562 00
All consideration after the eight years are in favor of the live fence.	

A NEW FERTILIZER.

From the *News and Advertiser*, of Milford, Delaware, we copy the following on Indian Meal as a fertilizer:

Indian Meal is said to be equal to Peruvian Guano as a fertilizer. Like the latter, it will kill the germ of the seeds if applied in too large quantities. It may be used in the hill, furrow or broadcast, in about the same quantities as guano. At 60 cents per bushel for corn a ton of it costs \$24.00, or about one-third as much as guano. It acts quickly upon the growing crops and may be applied to wheat in the Spring at the time of sowing clover, and raked in with the grass seeds.

From all that we have heard of this article as a fertilizer it is certainly worthy a trial, and we hope that some of our readers will experiment with it the coming season and report the result. Wheat bran also may be quite as valuable for this purpose and may be tried in the same manner. A tablespoonful of corn meal may be applied to a hill of corn, or 300 lbs. to the acre on wheat or other broadcast crops. It is said to answer quite as well on potatoes and other root crops.

HORSE-TALK TO MEN AND BOYS.

Up the hill, whip me not;
Down the hill, hurry me not;
In the stable, forget me not;
Of hay and corn, rob me not.
With sponge and brush, neglect me not,
Or soft, dry bed, deprive me not;
With bit or reins, jerk me not,
And when you are angry, strike me not,

**THE
MARYLAND FARMER,
A STANDARD MAGAZINE**

EZRA WHITMAN,
Proprietor.

COL. S. SANDS MILLS,
Conducting Editor.

COL. W. W. W. BOWIE,
Associate Editor.

OFFICE—145 WEST PRATT STREET,

Opposite Maltby House,

BALTIMORE.

T. C. DORSEY, Business Correspondent.

D. S. CURTISS, Washington, D. C.,
Correspondent and Agent.

BALTIMORE, JANUARY 1, 1874.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

One dollar and fifty cents per annum, in advance.
Five copies and more, one dollar each.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

1 Square of 10 lines or less, each insertion	\$1 50
1 Page 12 months.....	120 00
1 " 6 "	75 00
½ " 12 "	70 00
½ " 6 "	40 00
1 " Single insertion.....	20 00
Each subsequent insertion, not exceeding four.	15 00
½ Page, single insertion.....	12 00
Each subsequent insertion, not exceeding four.	8 00
Cards of 10 lines, yearly, \$12. Half yearly, \$7.	
Collections on yearly advertisements made quarterly, in advance.	

Special Contributors for 1874.

N. B. Worthington,
Barnes Compton,
Dr. E. J. Henkle,
John Merriman,
Luther Giddings,
Ed. L. F. Hardcastle,
D. Lawrence,
John Lee Carroll,

John Carroll Walsh,
Daniel C. Bruce,
Augustus L. Taveau.
John Feast,
John Wilkinson.
John F. Wolfinger,
C. K. Thomas,
Robert Sinclair.

WORK FOR "THE FARMER."

We want every subscriber to the *Maryland Farmer* and every postmaster in this and other States to act as agent for us, in adding new names to our now swelling list. It will require very little effort upon the part of our friends to accomplish this. Only call your neighbors attention to the *Farmer* and we are sure you will benefit the farming community in giving them the best, and cheapest paper in the country, and confer a favor upon us. \$150 a year, or 5 copies or more for \$1 each.

RENEWALS FOR 1874.

We beg leave to remind our friends that this number of "THE FARMER," is the first of a new volume. It is therefore an appropriate time for renewal of subscriptions, and we are emboldened by the late increase to our subscription list, as well as by the many commendations of our journal, to ask each old subscriber to exert his influence and send us one or more additional recruits to our army of supporters. A slight effort will enable each one to do so, and thereby place us under still further obligations to them. Let it cost what it may, we are determined to double our list of subscribers, knowing that the improved usefulness of the magazine will command the continued support of those who subscribe for 1874.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Now is the time, if ever there was one, when those who have acted wisely in accord with the times, and put down their goods to the lowest figures, seeing that they could not sell at the former rates, to advertise, that those who want such articles and have all the time waited for "bargains," may know where they can get them. Hundreds of people in country and town, hoard up their money whether in large or small sums, and wait for a crisis, or panic, especially when such an unfortunate state of affairs is likely to ensue, and when it comes, they lavishly let out their funds in purchasing low, and often buying more than they really need simply because it is a bargain. They eagerly seek the advertisement columns of every journal to see where their different wants can be supplied at the lowest prices. It is important therefore that those who desire to sell at reduced rates should advertise the same, especially such merchants as deal in dry goods, shoes, ready-made clothing, &c., which articles are now marked down 25 to 30 per cent. below the prices before the panic. With our extensive circulation among the farmers and country merchants in the Middle and Southern States, we can honestly say there are few better mediums for remunerative advertising than the *Maryland Farmer*.

MARYLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

A meeting of all those favorable to the organization of a State Horticultural Society will be held at RAINES HALL, corner of Baltimore and Post-Office Avenue, on THURSDAY, JANUARY 15th, 1874 at 12 noon.

All who take an interest in Horticulture, are earnestly invited to be present on the occasion. A number of prominent gentlemen in the State have already expressed their intention of attending the same.

E. WHITMAN,
Publisher Maryland Farmer.

The Maryland Press will be kind enough to notice the above.

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

In accord with the suggestions contained in our December number of the *Maryland Farmer*, a meeting of those who feel an interest in the formation of a Horticultural Society for our State, will be held at Raine's Hall, Baltimore street, on Thursday, January 15th, at 12 M. A large attendance is confidently expected. Several prominent Horticulturists and Orchardists have signified their wish and intent to be present at this first meeting for the organization of the Society.

We feel sure the Horticulturists of Maryland are not willing for other and younger States to outstrip them in matters appertaining to so important a branch of our agriculture.

We have the elements in our midst to make such an Association second to none in the whole country; but to accomplish this highly meritorious and useful purpose, every one who feels an interest in the subject, must take an active part and display his zeal in the proceedings and extend to the organization a warm and cordial support, by personal efforts.

We would appeal to the Press of Maryland to call attention to the meeting to be held for the inauguration of a Maryland Horticultural Society as above.

MARYLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

To the Editors of the Maryland Farmer:

The remarks you made in the December number of the *Maryland Farmer*, looking to "revive, or rather to inaugurate, the Maryland Horticultural Society," are to the point, and just made in the nick of time—and meet my views, and will receive, I am sure, the approbation and cordial support of every true lover of Horticulture and his country.

The benefits to be derived from such an association, ramifies all phases of society, bringing forth its desirable fruits in places, where sterility formerly prevailed; adding also its quota of refinement, where indifference and ignorance formerly swayed the minds of the people.

With regard to its practical bearing on the operative and mercantile cultivator, its tendency is a remunerative one; it also stimulates him to a higher degree of excellence in his productions, for competition is a life giver to every branch of business. To the amateur horticulturist, it affords a ready method of adding zest to their laudable pursuits, by affording them a favorable opportunity to contest for superiority before the public, by their entering the prize arena.

That Baltimore—and I may add, Maryland—should be without a Society whereby Horticulture, in all its various branches, might be embraced, and

brought before the public by Annual or Semi-annual Exhibitions, is certainly not very flattering to the taste and enterprise of her citizens, while every other State in the Union has its Horticultural Society, some even by the half dozen. We cannot get over this, our great desiderata, by pleading the want of material, for of Fruits, Flowers and Vegetables, we have abundance of the finest kinds and of the best quality, and our growers have proved this by the first prizes they have taken, when exhibiting at sister State Societies.

We also have in our midst gentlemen possessed of intelligence, who have the means and taste to patronize such an association, by their presence, advice and material support from their rich conservatories and well stocked gardens—therefore we say to gardeners generally, come out of your *clam shell* exclusiveness, and combine yourselves with these gentlemen in organizing a Maryland Horticultural Society—so that our City and State may no longer be a byword and reproach among outside horticulturists. We feel a deep and earnest interest in the success of this enterprise, as much for the sake of the standing of the profession, as to save us from shame when abroad, on being asked concerning the condition of horticulture in our State.

We say then, urge a State organization as speedily as possible—and so soon as the time and place of meeting of the friends of the cause is decided upon, then we are with you heart and hand.

W. D. BRACKENRIDGE.

STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY,

CLARKSVILLE, Howard Co., Md., Dec. 1873.

To the Editors of the Maryland Farmer:

I notice in your issue of December a suggestion in regard to the formation of a State Horticultural Society; in the same number your correspondent "Gardener," calls attention to the necessity of such an organization, and the Baltimore *Weekly Sun*, in its last issue, refers to your proposal in terms of warm and just commendation.

I should not be true to my own convictions of what is due to agricultural improvement if I did not hasten to add my humble approval to the measure. Why indeed, with everything favorable to the cultivation of fruits, flowers and vegetables, soil, climate, market facilities, intelligence, refinement, long established society, and proximity to the capital of the Nation, and one of the largest seaport cities on this Continent, why should not all this combination of favorable circumstances be made still more effective by an organization for their development and employment? Is enterprise

the only thing lacking to concentrate the appreciation of all these advantages into a successful and powerful nucleus? Let us not look at that dark side of the question, but determine, those of us who are of one mind in this matter, to make the start and leave results to the future.

The movement has another feature to commend it, to which I will now only allude, viz: the tendency to special culture, which indicates, wherever found, a condition of things which properly managed leads to great prosperity. Yours,

DAWSON LAWRENCE.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURE.

The report of the Department of Agriculture for November and December, shows the following condition of the crops named in Maryland:

Corn.—Howard: late favorable weather has partially repaired the damages of cut-worms, late planting and drought. Dorchester: shortened by drought but of good quality. Carroll: good except when the worms destroyed the plantings. Some crops yield 90 to 100 bushels per acre. Queen Anne's: crop lighter than was supposed. Baltimore: crop fair. Washington: largest crop ever made in spite of drawbacks.

Potatoes.—Howard: late potatoes good; early ones very poor. Dorchester: late potatoes excellent; early plantings shortened by drought. Baltimore: late potatoes very fine; early ones shortened by drought. Washington: large crop. The crop throughout the State is below the average of last year.

Hay.—Howard: greatly improved by seasonable weather this year. Carroll: pastures good. Baltimore: crop shortened by drought, but better than last year.

Tobacco.—Howard: good season and good crop. *Rice in Maryland.*—A farmer of Wicomico county, Maryland, (Eastern Shore,) reports that from one quart of rice, planted in deep, black soil, he raised twenty-four quarts, weighing twenty-eight pounds. It was planted about the middle of April, in rows eighteen inches apart, and cut October 27. Single grains produced from five to twenty-five stalks, from three and a half to five feet high.

DEATH OF JAMES LUCAS.—The venerable James Lucas died on the 8th of December last, aged 78 years. He was one of the Old Defenders of Baltimore, being at the hour of his death Vice President of that association. He had held many important positions of trust during his life. He was the head of the most extensive printing establishment of this city, working under the title of James Lucas & Son. Father Lucas was one of God's noblemen, correct and punctual in business, genial and charitable, his death was mourned by many devotedly attached friends, and that comprised the entire community, for he had so lived as to make no enemies. He was our personal friend during life, and it was with a sad heart we followed him to his last resting place.

THE BANNER STATE.

Georgia cultivated last season 1,702,169 acres in cotton, and 1,791,468 acres in corn, and over 1,000,000 in other crops, which shows that she is determined to raise her own provisions though, if the following is any indication of her success in cotton raising, she will also produce her full share of cotton.

At the late Fair held in Macon, Dickson, the great Georgia planter, exhibited two cotton stalks 4 and 4½ ft. high, each stalk containing 500 beautiful open bolls of cotton, showing the value of good seed and good cultivation.

LIVE STOCK JOURNAL FOR DECEMBER.—This most complete journal is received, having a great variety of articles upon every class of stock.

The following are a few in the present number: "The Panic and the Farm;" "Hints for December;" "Crops and Markets;" "Dairy Pasture;" "Fine Meal for Cows;" "A Great Dairy Enterprise;" "Large Yields of Butter;" "Short-horn Prices;" "How to Feed and Make it Pay;" "Devon Cattle;" "Feeding Cattle in Transit;" "Breeding from High-Bred Horses;" "Breeding Horses for Farm Work;" "How to Drive;" "Horse vs. Ox Labor;" "The Chemistry of Fruits;" "Indian Corn in Eastern States;" "Improved vs. Common Fowls;" "Shall Farmers Hold their Hogs?" "Feeding Pigs;" "Profits of Sheep Husbandry;" "Sheep and Cows Together;" "Wintering Bees;" "Trout Breeding." This paper gives a wonderful amount of information in every number, and no farmer can afford to do without it. \$1.50 per annum. Buffalo, N.Y.

BRIGGS BROTHERS' CATALOGUE.—We are in receipt of the January number of this Illustrated Floral Work, issued by these famous Seedmen and Florists. The present issue eclipses their catalogues of 1872 and 1873, and really a very beautiful specimen of art in every particular; the list has been thoroughly revised, prices further reduced, and the work arranged to conform to the necessary demands of the public. It is sent with the three subsequent issues, to subscribers only, for 25 cents. Customers for \$1 or over are credited with a yearly subscription.

MR. JAMES J. H. GREGORY of Marblehead, Mass., aims to supply one great want, which many a good farmer, when too late, has felt to his keen sorrow: Garden seed that know how to come up; and when the crop is gathered proves to be just the kind the label said they were. Mr. Gregory grows a large portion of the seed he sells, and he gets out a live Catalogue, as would be expected of the original introducer of the Hubbard Squash. His advertisement will be found in this number. His Illustrated Catalogue will be sent free to all applicants.

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER, as will be seen by reference to advertisement in this paper, not only "still lives," but purposes to furnish a better paper during the ensuing year than ever before. It has long been the leading combined Rural, Literary and Family Weekly of America, and we trust its future prosperity will equal its past remarkable career; \$2.50 per year.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED.

From Robert Buist, Jr., Philadelphia, wholesale Price Current of garden seeds, of crop of 1873.

From E. Whitman & Sons, Catalogue of Agricultural Implements, Field and Garden seeds, Fertilizers and Fertilizing material, 1874. Nos. 145 and 147 West Pratt street, Baltimore.

Monthly Report of the Department of Agriculture for November,

MARYLAND STATE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of this Association, held December 18th, in Baltimore, a report was presented from the Committee appointed to devise means to increase the usefulness of the Society, to which was subjoined the following resolution, which was read and unanimously adopted by the meeting:—

"That it is expedient and necessary, for the full development, benefit, growth and usefulness of this association, that the publication of essays, transactions and proceedings upon agricultural subjects, the institution of experiments, the establishment of libraries, the collection and preservation of models and specimens, the providing of convenient rooms and places of resort for persons in pursuit of agricultural information, and the general promotion of the interests of agriculture and the arts and sciences connected therewith, be no longer neglected or postponed. And that immediate steps be taken for the furtherance of the same.

"That a committee, consisting of Messrs. A. Bowie Davis, J. H. Rieman, and Wm. S. G. Baker, be appointed with full power and authority to obtain suitable rooms, and to furnish the same for the use of the Association; that monthly meetings be regularly held in said rooms for the reception of essays, discussions upon agricultural subjects, and reports upon the condition, prospects and advantages of the different counties of the State; and that farmers from this State and other States, and strangers visiting the city, be cordially invited to attend said meetings and participate in the same, the object being to unite the agricultural interest in closer bonds of fellowship and union, and to receive and impart information of common interest.

"That this association solicits the sympathy and co-operation of all other callings, trades and professions, as all must see and feel how dependent we all are upon the productions of the soil, and the success and prosperity of the husbandman."

RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT BROWN.

A letter was submitted from General Geo. S. Brown, tendering his resignation as president of the association, and stating that his health and other considerations rendered it impossible for him to attend to the duties of the office. The resignation was accepted, with expressions of regret and the thanks of the association to General Brown for his efforts in its behalf.

A. BOWIE DAVIS ELECTED PRESIDENT.

The Hon. A. Bowie Davis, of Montgomery county, was then unanimously elected president, and Gen. Brown to the executive committee, vice Mr. Davis.

PAT'S WELCOME TO THE REAPING MACHINE.

Och, I'm sick of the sickle, Molly dear
Av sto pin' so long and so low,
And it's little sorrow it gives me
To give the ould bother the go;
And when another harvest comes,
By the powers I'd like to see
The money or anything else that 'ud make
A reaping machine of me.

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER REPORT ON AGRICULTURE.

The report of the Department of Agriculture for November and December shows that the average of the tobacco crop in comparison with last year is 94. The returns make the yield above that of 1872: In West Virginia 129, Kansas 114, Arkansas 108, Virginia 102, Illinois 101: New Hampshire, New York, Texas and Oregon 100. The other States range between 70 in Pennsylvania and 98 in South Carolina and Florida. In condition Connecticut reports an average of 133, Massachusetts 120, New Hampshire 118, Vermont 110, Maryland, Louisiana and Oregon 106, Kansas 102, Virginia, Georgia and Alabama 101. Other States range between 100 in Illinois and 91 in Missouri. In all the Gulf States there are counties reporting the cultivation of sugar cane to some extent, but outside of Louisiana it is evident that the production is small.

The report says, under the head of "Foreign demand for Wheat:" In Great Britain many have supposed that Russia is the heaviest contributor to these supplies, but these official figures show when subjected to analysis that the United States furnishes the largest portion, the total for fifteen years being 143,817,686 cwt., or 27 per cent. of all, while the proportion for Russia is 24 per cent., or 126,756,477 cwt. Germany, exclusive of the Duchies, up to 1860 contributes 17 per cent. or 93,437,841 cwt., and France 9 per cent. or 51,342,638 cwt. British America has sent 5 per cent. These prominent contributions, with fractions of percentage omitted, make 84 per cent., leaving but 16 to all other sources of supply."

SUCCESSFUL FARMING.

We have recently heard of a farmer, not on the Delaware Peninsula, says the editor of the Milford *News and Advertiser*—who sold four tons of dried sugar corn at \$800 per ton. He has a small steam drier and dries corn, tomatoes, peas, &c., on the farm.

We think that the time will soon come when all our large fruit growers will find handsome profits in having small dryers on their places, and by drying economize all their products that will not bring remunerative prices in the green state. Many tons of dried fruits and vegetables of the finest quality may thus be prepared and sold at profitable rates throughout the season over all parts of the world.

Now is the time to subscribe for the FARMER.

PROPOSED COUNTY FAIR IN HARFORD.

Albert Neilson, Esq., Secretary of a meeting of representatives of Farmer's Clubs in that county, reports that members of three committees from the Waterville, Belle Farm and Deer Creek Farmer's Clubs met in Belair, on the 2d of December, to ventilate the question of a county agricultural fair. The clubs were fully represented, and much interest manifested by all present. The whole matter was pretty thoroughly developed by the gentlemen present, the most important question being that of location and the advantages to be secured by holding the fair near Belair being explained by several gentlemen, the meeting decided that a piece of land should be procured in the immediate neighborhood of said town. The chair appointed Messrs. Archer, Fendall, and Kinsey a committee to ascertain what lots of ground can be had at or near Belair; whether they can be purchased or leased, cost, &c., and to hand in their report at the next meeting of the Joint committees, which will be held in Belair the 3d day of January, 1874, when the selection of the site will be made.

FINE CROPS IN BALTIMORE COUNTY.

From the *Union* we copy the following on fine crops in the county:—

The Gunpowder Agricultural Club of Baltimore county, has again demonstrated that its members know how to raise good corn. T. T. Gorsuch, who obtained the first prize last year for the best acre of corn has this year surpassed last year's yield. He produced 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ barrels of corn on an acre, for which he will be presented by the club with a certificate. Sam'l M. Price produced 23 barrels on an acre, being the second best yield. Joseph Bosley produced 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ barrels to the acre or 86 $\frac{3}{4}$ barrels on four acres. Joshua M. Gorsuch raised 19 barrels to the acre. We think every one of these gentlemen have just cause to be proud of the success they have met with in raising corn. Dickenson Gorsuch had one of the best looking fields of corn we thought we ever saw. He had eighteen acres and it averaged 14 barrels to the acre. For an entire field this is certainly an abundant yield. Isaac M. Price last spring planted one potato weighing about a half pound and raised 32 pounds of potatoes. This is about sixty pounds for the planting of one pound, or 60 bushels from one. "Ike" is good at raising potatoes. Sam'l M. Price raises turnips that are twenty-four inches in circumference and weigh four and a half pounds.

[Why not get the producers of these crops to furnish the mode of culture, &c., for publication, for the public benefit?]

NEW PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The Illustrated Register of Rural Affairs for 1874, by J. J. Thomas, and published by Luther Tucker & Son, Albany, N. Y. Price 30 cents.

This is the 20th number of this valuable series of annuals, which have no superior in this country. Every three numbers constitute a volume, and there are now six for sale at \$1.50 per bound volume. They make quite a farmer's library, filled with invaluable information.

The present number contains, besides the usual calendar pages, a great variety of information on cooking food for animals, roses and their culture, out-door floral decorations, designs for barns, suggestions in rural economy, notes on fruit culture, &c. The pages are illustrated with one hundred and fifty engravings. We heartily commend it to our readers.

The Fourth and Fifth Annual Reports of the Maryland Eye and Ear Institute, Baltimore, Md. George Reuling, M. D., Surgeon in charge.

This is one of the largest, finest, and most ably conducted Institutions in the country. It is in a most flourishing condition, and we rejoice that such an establishment exists within our midst. The officers and Board of Directors consist of the most prominent and important business men of our city. Toward an Institution of this character, every citizen must feel a deep personal interest in its success.

Transactions of the New York State Agricultural Society, 1871.

This volume of Transactions like its predecessors, is full of information upon a large range of subjects. A large number of facts seem to have come to light in the discussions of the Farmers' Clubs, and hereafter we shall probably make such extracts from them, and other subjects discussed in this volume, as we think will be of value to our readers.

The Herald of Health, published monthly by Wood & Holbrook, New York.

We received the December number of this excellent Journal from the Publishers. It is full of valuable matter in reference to the laws of Hygiene.

Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, American Edition. Leonard Scott Publishing Co., N. Y.

We are regularly in receipt of this very able Magazine, and commend it highly to our readers.

Wood's Household Magazine, for December. Published by S. E. Shutes, New York.

This Monthly furnishes much pleasant reading, an engraving each month for \$1 per annum, or with a fine Chromo Yosemite for \$1.50.

St. Nicholas, Scribner's Illustrated Magazine for Girls and Boys. Scribner & Co., New York.

The Holiday number, for January, 1874, of this very excellent and profusely Illustrated Journal has been received, and now that Osgood & Co's, "Our Young Folks," has been merged in the "St. Nicholas," we know no paper better suited to the youthful mind. Its pages are instructive and highly entertaining, the subjects are fully illustrated with capital wood cuts. The engraving for January is a beautiful picture of the Princes in the Tower, from a painting by Delaroche. This excellent Monthly ought to be found in every household where there are children. It is edited by Mrs Mary Mapes Dodge. Price \$3 a year.

Pennsylvania Fruit Growers Society. The Fifteenth Annual meeting of this Association will be held in Mechanicsburg, Cumberland county, Jan. 21st, 1874.

From the Iowa Board of Immigration: A Treatise on the Resources of Iowa, containing a map of the State. It is well calculated to attract the attention of Immigrants.

THE APIARY.*For the Maryland Farmer.***MANAGEMENT OF BEES.**

My apiary is built slightly facing the southeast, in order to have the morning sun. The bee stand is built upon a post, with'n the enclosure, with no connection with outside parts; this prevents a direct communication to the hive, by ants and other preying insects.

Ants are sometimes troublesome—to prevent them crawling up the post, a band of raw cotton, passed around the post of the stand, will make an effectual barrier.

Hives.—I have used the common hives for years, also, common hives, with surplus honey-boxes; also, the Langstroth Moveable Comb, and many other popular hives; am now using the American Bee Hive, which I think superior to any that have come under my notice, and have been taking too per cent. more honey from them than from any other kind. In the spring, I overhaul all my swarms, cleaning out all litter that may have accumulated during the winter, and occasionally give them a little honey, which seems to encourage them to begin their labors; and if any surplus honey has been taken the previous fall, I seldom replace the empty boxes till the swarming season is over—too much room prevents swarming.

Swarming.—Artificial swarming is much spoken of, and perhaps profitably practised, but I prefer natural swarming, for I am confident that it is much better for the parent stock as well as the young swarm. Swarming usually begins in May, about the middle, and sometimes earlier; the first swarm needs little or no care, it being generally strong and vigorous, and goes to work with a will, frequently surpassing the parent stock in surplus stores. The second swarm appears about twelve days later, does not number as many, and seldom gathers more stores than is necessary for its winter use; occasionally a third swarm issues, weaker in number, and having less time to provide for themselves; they need more care than the rest, though I have at times carried them for miles, where buckwheat fields are numerous, and they have turned out more than self-sustaining. I generally weigh all my hives before using them, then when occupied by the bees, on re-weighing them in the fall, I can tell whether they have sufficient honey for their sustenance. A swarm and stores, independent of the hive, should weigh at least twenty-five pounds; when I find them below that weight, I always feed them during the winter. Honey, of course, is the best food, though some make a syrup

of white sugar, or use sugar candy. In giving them honey, it should be placed within the hive where they can have easy access to it; if it is in the comb, where I have a moveable comb hive, I place it in the frames, but strained honey should be placed in a small wooden trough, (tin or metal will sour the honey), then at intervals I place straws so as to give them sure footing, and thus prevent them from falling in the honey and drowning. They require more food upon a bright, warm day; during the extreme cold days they are in a state of torpor.

When swarming is over, I put the surplus honey-boxes in their respective places, and take them out about the 1st of October, or even earlier, taking care to leave sufficient for their maintainance during the coming winter; at times, I have taken from forty to fifty pounds of beautiful white honey from a single hive.

This is almost the outline of my management of bees. Volumes could be written on the subject; the more they are studied and practically dealt with, the more interesting they become; and any one interested in their culture, would soon become acquainted with their habits, and the simple treatment they require.

BEE RAISER.*Govanstown, Oct. 5, 1873.*

DESTROYING MILLERS.—Mr. Philipson, an extensive bee keeper of Genessee county, Michigan, says: "In the evening place a shallow dish filled with thin tar in front of the hives, with a small lump so placed in the center of the dish as to bring the light near the tar. The millers being attracted by the light dive for it and go into the tar. In a short time all the millers in the vicinity of the apiary will be caught."

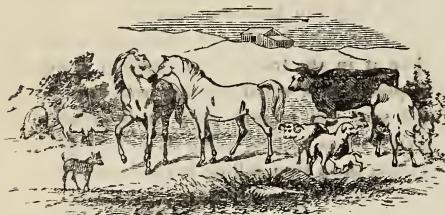
KEEPING HONEY.—A wholesale honey dealer says honey will not candy if a teaspoonful of cream tartar dissolved in water be mixed with a gallon of honey when scalding hot. Care must be taken not to scorch the honey.

The rule generally adopted for taking bees is for the second party to furnish hives, take care of the colonies for a term of years, and return old stock with half of the increase.

Moisture sometimes generates in a bee hive in winter, and runs down the sides to the entrance, where coming in contact with cold air is frozen, filling up the space, and stopping ventilation. This matter should be looked to occasionally.

Ten grains of oxalic acid in half a pint of water, will remove all ink and stains.

Live Stock Register.



OIL AND CAKE FOR STOCK.

The following as to the value of linseed, we clip from the North British *Agriculturist*:

Linseed and linseed cakes are valuable feeding stuffs—they are digestible, palatable and nutritive. As producers of fat such oleaginous bodies are generally regarded as two and a-half times more effective than starch or sugar.

Well boiled linseed gruel, or bruised linseed cake digested in hot water, is a most valuable nutrient for horses, cattle or sheep, not only during health, but also during the progress of acute disease, in scrofula, rheumatism, chronic skin complaints, and during convalescence from relaxing disorders.

A daily mess of linseed gruel, or a few ounces of bruised cake, given daily to calves or lambs as soon as they will eat it, not only favors, economically, growth and early maturity, but is tolerably effectual in warding off attacks of diarrhoea, anaemia and black-quarter. In the state of gruel or decoction, linseed is in every day use as a mucilaginous demulcent in irritable conditions of the throat, alimentary canal, kidneys and bladder; in poisoning with irritants and corrosives; and as a convenient vehicle for the administration of nauseous or acrid medicines. Ground linseed makes good poultices, especially when mixed with an equal quantity of bran and oat meal, but bruised linseed or oil cake is cheaper, less apt to become rancid, and equally effectual in retaining heat and moisture.

One of the colic draughts of the Edinburgh Veterinary College for horses, consists of one pint of linseed oil with one or two ounces each of laudanum and oil of terpentine. On account of its lubricating and emollient properties, linseed often relieves choking in cattle; injected into the rectum or bladder it allays irritation of these organs. As a soothing dressing it is applied to hard, dry, irritable surfaces. From its drying properties it is less suitable than olive oil or lard for making ointments or liniments.

Linseed oil has been highly lauded dietetically:

but neither for cattle nor sheep does it answer so well as properly prepared linseed or linseed cake. It has the disadvantage of causing laxative effects. It increases rather than diminishes the quantity of ordinary food consumed. As an adjuvant feeding stuff it is inferior to linseed cake, beans, or oats.

As a purgative, horses take from half a pint to a pint; cattle one to two pints; sheep and pigs from six to eight ounces; dogs, one to two ounces; cats about one ounce. It is administered shaken up with linseed gruel, mucilage, milk or spirit and water.

HON. JOHN MERRYMAN, OF MARYLAND, AT THE GEORGIA FAIR.

HIS FINE HEREFORD CATTLE.

The following we extract from the *Rural Southerner*, of Atlanta, Ga., from a very full and interesting account of the recent Fair of the Georgia State Agricultural Society, held at Macon, which it declares "was unquestionably the greatest display of the products of Southern industry yet known in our history. The great number and variety of the products of the farm, the garden, the orchard, the nursery, the hot-house, the workshop, the household, the loom, the sewing machine; of the stables, the folds, the pens, the poultry yard; of the bee-keeper, and of every other industry that could be named, were as far beyond the conception of those not present, as they are beyond description by the visitor. No industry known to us was without its representatives in a variety of specimens, unless it be the single one of fish culture, and that, probably, only because of the great difficulty of making the exhibition without damage to the life of the specimens."

The editor, speaking of Mr. Merryman and his Herefords, says:

Hon. Jno. Merryman, of Hayfield, Maryland, exhibited to-day in the ring and then sold at auction six young Herefords from 9 months to 22 months old. They were all sired by his celebrated imported bull Sir Richard II. (he was sired by the noted animal Richard I.) The reputation of Sir Richard II. for form and finely developed points is the equal of that of any bull in America. The young one's name was "Atlanta." She brought \$110, and was purchased by E. A. Wilcox, of Bibb county. "Marshall" brought \$647, E. C. Maddox purchaser. "Macon" brought \$102, R. S. Lunlap purchaser. "Prince of Wales" brought \$210, purchased by Mr. Bishop. "Dolly Varden" brought \$91, purchased by Col. Blount.

Description of the Herefords.—They are bright

red, with white faces and noses. This class of cattle are a distinct race, as are the Devons.—They are very hardy, active, good milkers, the best of work oxen. As beef cattle they are held by all extensive butchers on a high scale, second to none. They yield as much at least, and by many it is claimed that more meat per hundred pounds of live weight is got than from any other breed,

First Importations.—They were first brought to this country by Henry Clay, some sixty years ago. The later importers were George Clark, Hon. Erastus Corning and Wm. Southern, of New York.

The present stock of Mr. Merryman are from the above importations.

Crosses.—When crossed, with the Devons especially, they make the finest imaginable oxen, as they have good size, with the Hereford marks of appearance, and both being active and tractable and strong, they have all the requisites for work.

THE PERFORMANCE OF A JERSEY COW.

S. G. Livermore, Esq., Robin, Benton County, Iowa, well-known in that State as a breeder of Jerseys; says the *National Price Stock Journal*, gives a detailed record of the yield of the three-year-old cow Rosa Lee. She dropped her calf on June 3, and the record commences on June 11. During the thirty days from June 11 to July 10, she gave 1,018 pounds of milk, from which was made 59 and 15-17 pounds of butter. From July 11 to 31 she gave 600 pounds of milk, from which was made 35 and 5-17 pounds of butter; and from Aug 1, to 31, she gave 664 pounds of milk, from which was made 40 and 14-17 pounds of butter; being a total from June 11 to Aug. 31, of 2,162 pounds of milk, from which was made 136 pounds of butter; being an average of 1 and 7-10 pounds of butter for eighty consecutive days; which we regard as a very fine average indeed. Mr. Livermore, in sending this statement, accompanied with a sample jar of his Jersey butter, which had the real genuine flavor and incomparable color and texture which Jersey butter, when made by skilful hands, always possesses. Mr. Livermore not only has the cows to furnish the milk, but he has some one on the premises who understands just how to manipulate the cream. There has never been a time within our recollection, in Chicago, when a sample of butter like this would have failed to command half a dollar per pound on sight, and often much more; so that the product of Rosa Lee, when reduced to dollars and cents, can be estimated at almost a dollar a day during the season.

THE SHORT-HORN BREEDERS.

The Second Annual Convention of the Short-Horn Breeders' Association assembled in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio, on December the 5th. There were present one hundred delegates. Dr. A. C. Stevenson, of Indiana, President, called the convention to order—B. H. Campbell, of Illinois, acting as Secretary.

The President read an address, referring to the flattering auspices under which they had secured their second Convention, the marked success and increased interest in the objects of the Association, and passing on to a specific notice of the great importance short-horns should hold in stock-raising dwelt in detail on their excellence for breeding purposes, their market value and superior qualities for milk and food.

Among other interesting papers submitted to the body, was one from Dr. L. B. Sprague, of Springfield, Ohio, on the "Conformation, Contour, and Quality of Short-Horns." The thing to be desired in a short horn was a short head, well-rounded back, and a straight belly, from udder to forelegs; a smooth surface, which would not make prominent any part of the body; and in quality a fine-flavored, rich, tender, marble flesh, which kept its color in cooking. He laid great stress on the matter, too much neglected, of breeding for quality of flesh. Meat breeders breed for color or form when they should most breed for flesh. Each breeder, from the flesh of the old cow when killed and by any other indication, such as handling, color of hair, should make a shrewd estimate of the probable character of the meat of all his cattle, and breed with reference to improving it. The paper elicited an animated discussion as to the quality of the flesh of whites, reds and roans. Dark reds were universally reprobated, as were hog-haired whites, but soft-haired yellow reds and soft-haired whites and roans seemed to be the favorites in the discussion.

Prof. M. Miles, of the State Agricultural College, Lansing, Michigan, delivered a lecture on "In-and-in Breeding." He took the ground that desirable characteristics in cattle were never produced by breeding, but by favorable surroundings, altered habits, &c. Breeding only perpetuates the characteristics and transmits them. No novice can be successful in close breeding, on account of the dangers of sterility and small bony structure. A considerable discussion was had on In-and-in breeding, which resulted in a majority of the members opposing the practice.

THE AYRSHIRE COW.

Dr. Cross writes as follows on this breed: Formerly, farming was so poor in Scotland that in the Spring the people bled their cattle to get blood to mix with a little oat meal. So much of the land was wet and swampy that but little could be cultivated. Wheat was seldom grown except on a nobleman's estate, and a large portion of the country was as much in common as are the Western plains. And yet the grass was rich and abundant, and so it came to pass, between 1750 and 1800, the celebrated Ayrshire cow grew out of this distress. That is to say some family, sorely pressed for the means to sustain life, had a cow which they cared for both Winter and Summer with the greatest attention; she was driven to the richest and thickest grass, she was housed in Winter with the children, and fed from the carefully stored hay, and above all, she was milked till the last possible drop was obtained. From kindness, good feed and close milking, a calf sprang equal at least to its mother. Then began neighborhood fame; perhaps the laird or the noble obtained some of the stock, and the same care being bestowed, followed by "a selection of the fittest," a noble race growing out of the direst necessity has been given to the world. I may note here that no valuable race of cattle has ever been known to originate except in a country of excellent grasses.

HOW TO RAISE BUCKWHEAT.

A correspondent in the *Peninsula News* of Milford, Del., says there are three things essential to properly growing this most excellent grain as follows:—

1st. The ground must be made mellow. To do this properly requires two plowings. The first should be in Spring, or before the ground gets hard and dry. The second at the time of sowing.

2d. The ground *must* be in good tilth, or made moderately so, by manure, at or near the time of sowing.

3d. The grain should be sowed as late as it will do, and have it ripe before the frost nips it.

Here comes all the chance there is in raising this grain. I am convinced that if every farmer should divide the ground he intends to sow with buckwheat, and in this latitude sow one part about the 20th of July, the rest from the first to the 10th of August, he would not fail once in twenty years, of having from at least one piece a good crop. My practice is to plough deep in the Spring, manure, and plough in lightly from the 1st to the 10th of August, immediately sow, and harrow well. With this treatment I have not failed to receive from 30 to 60 fold, and that, too, on my poorest land. From a single spear raised this season, that I had room to develop, I shelled and counted 3,705 perfect kernels.

About three-fourths of a bushel should be sowed to an acre, unless the ground is rich, or to be highly manured, when one half a bushel will be better.

Old stocks of bees are as good as any, says Quinby, so long as they keep healthy, yet they are more liable to become diseased.

USEFUL RECIPES.

HOG CHOLERA.—An old farmer writing from Marion, O., to the Cincinnati Gazette, says the following remedy is a sure shot: Take copperas, saltpeter and sulphur, one pound of each; dissolve the copperas and saltpeter in two gallons of warm water. Make a thin mash. Put in one-third of the water and stir in one-third of the sulphur. This is sufficient for one feed for twenty hogs. The three feeds may be given them in one day. In two days, if any hogs appear unwell, give another dose or two. A feed or two to well hogs once in ten days or two weeks will keep them healthy.

TALLOW AS A CURE FOR GAPES.—One day I noticed a flock of eleven pure bred Creveceur chickens very bad with what I called "gapes." I remarked to the man who had them in charge that he would not have many chickens out of that lot. "Oh! never mind," said he, "I have got a cure for them from a neighboring woman, which is a common halfpenny tallow candle melted and mixed into about a quart of oatmeal stirabout." The remedy was resorted to and the Creveceurs have every one recovered and grown into finely developed chickens. I have since tried this cure with invariable success, on Brahmans and Dorkings, &c.—*London Field*.

KILLING LICE ON CATTLE.—We find the following in the *Prairie Farmer*: I have noticed that coal oil has been recommended in your paper, but I never found any remedy that I like so well as anquintum. A piece about the size of a common pea thoroughly rubbed on the head at the roots of the horns will effectually do the business. Care should be taken not to let the animal get wet for forty-eight hours after the application, and there is no danger.

REMEDY FOR SCRATCHES.—One of my horses became badly affected with scratches. Washing with soap seemed to do little good, and the ankle was badly scabbed. I directed my man to keep it constantly washed clean, and in addition to wash it with a solution of *chloride of lime*, about a good teaspoonful dissolved in a tea cup of water. In three days the disease was about cured.

FOR COLIC IN A FILLY.—Dr. Horne gives the following as his remedy for colic in a filly: One-quarter ounce of prepared chalk in her food every morning, for a few days, to correct the acidity of the bowels, which causes it.

SWELLED LEGS.—Partial or local debility is generally the cause of horses' legs swelling over night in the stable. When swelled legs occur in a horse that is thin and impoverished, debility must be counteracted to promote a cure by feeding somewhat liberally, particularly with a mixture of the edible roots, as carrots, parsnips, &c.; it is aided also by giving tonics, such as half a drachm of powdered sulphate of iron, and two drachms of powdered gentian root, mixed in the feed once daily. Smart hand rubbing and bandaging should be employed, for which purpose strong woolen cloths of any kind may be made use of; but flannel forms the best bandage when evenly and firmly applied, by means of a roller four yards in length, and four inches in breadth. Such bandage may be applied every evening as long as needed. Its application should always be preceded by smart friction of the limbs.

HORTICULTURAL.**A CHAT WITH HENRY GERKER.****THE GREAT PEACH GROWER.**

Mr. Henry Gerker, living 2½ miles west of Moore Station, Del. R. R., is the largest peach grower of this State. He is a native of Germany, but has been living in this country a great many years.

* * * * Casting around for a suitable locality, he hit upon that above mentioned, and made a purchase of land there some 20 years ago. He tried for a time the raising of grain, then the great Delaware staple, but soon found that this was an unprofitable business. He therefore turned his attention to other products, and was among the first to start the peach business. His operations were commenced on a small scale—on a scale that would be regarded as small now, but what was then quite as large as the demand for the product justified. His first crops of a thousand or two baskets, he found to be a drug in the market, and that too at a time when there were but a very few growers in the country. Indeed, the only way he could dispose of them at any price was by having them carted from house to house by his draymen in their spare hours from duty at his Factory.

This was indeed the infancy of the peach business and this the method by which the popular taste for this fruit was cultivated. Gerker was shrewd enough to see that this demand would increase rapidly, and went to work to prepare for it. He gradually increased his area of orchards by buying tracts adjoining his first purchase, until now he is proprietor of nearly a thousand acres of the finest land in Kent county, with a peach orchard of five hundred acres, being the largest, we believe, in the State. His long experience in this business entitles his suggestions to weight with the fruit growers of the Peninsula, and we reproduce a few of them as nearly as we can recollect from a brief conversation on the subject. We don't know that Mr. G. makes any great pretensions to scientific attainments in pomology; but being a man of most excellent judgment and a vast amount of observation, his knowledge has the merit of being of that practical kind which after all is the true test of all that is valuable.

TREES SHOULD NOT BE CROWDED.

Mr. G. thinks that most orchards are set too closely. The poor soil is overtaxed and the trees are dwarfed in size and so poorly nourished that the fruit is often scant and of inferior quality from this cause. He sets trees now at least 22 feet apart, and says that the space between is none too great for the roots, which are found to run a great ways; and when the trees are set too close, the roots of a single diseased tree will inoculate its neighbors, and the malady be thus extended through the orchard. One of Mr. G.'s neighbors, Mr. Clark, planted 40 feet apart, and thinks the extra yield per tree and superior character of the fruit justifies the extra quantity of ground given each tree. This liberal distance apart gives a free circulation of the air and ready access of the sunshine; it also obviates a good deal of pruning, and gives good room to drive through the orchards

freely when harvesting the fruit. Mr. G. says that
HALE'S EARLY

has proved a very unsatisfactory variety in his hands, and he has recently dug up 2000 trees. He retains 1000 on a piece of his lightest soil—having observed that the lighter the soil the better the result from Hale's Early, while on stiff clay land he deems them entirely worthless.

TROTTH'S EARLY

is a very satisfactory variety, and of these Mr. G. has from 2000 to 3000 trees. Of the

EARLY YORK

he has 10,000 trees. They are a very good peach, highly productive, but have to be handled very carefully, and do not bear transportation well.

CRAWFORD'S EARLY

is a fine fruit, but requires to be watched very carefully and picked just in the nick of time, or it is spoiled for shipping. Crawford's Late, Old Mixon, Honest John, are all excellent standard varieties, and enter largely into Mr. G.'s extensive plantations. The Stump of the World is a prince of peaches, and considered one of the very best varieties grown. Mary's Choice, is a very large peach, and sometimes brings 4 to 5 dollars a basket; but they only bear every alternate year, as a rule. Early and Late Rareipes have a certain value in making up an assortment for a large orchard. The Malacaton or Lemon peach has deteriorated, and is considered by growers here as nearly run out. The Delaware White, did well for two or three years, but now is subject to cracking so that its sale is spoiled. Freeman's Late is a white variety, and usually bear so heavily that the fruit is small and unattractive. When they bear lightly the fruit grows large and commands ready sale.

Of Smocks, there are two varieties—the Beard Smock and Smock proper. The Late Heath and White Heath are also grown by Mr. G., and help to make up the succession through the season. Mr. Gerker thinks that this is the natural home of the peach—that nearly all the diseases that affect it on this Peninsula are the result of defective nutrition. Too many rely entirely upon the natural adaptation of the soil and climate, and fail to give the land the proper fertilizing. Hence so many scrawny, unhealthy trees and so much worthless fruit. If properly fertilized and cultivated the tree renews itself almost indefinitely, and instead of an orchard lasting only twelve or fifteen years, they can be kept in prime bearing condition for the life of a generation. Ashes is regarded as the best of all fertilizers for peach trees, but they are not particularly fastidious and thrive on a great variety of pabulum. Mr. Gerker thinks that the curculio is one of the worst enemies the peach grower encounters, much of the damage done by this insect being ascribed to other causes. Much of the fruit drops every season before maturing, and this is thought often to be caused by the weakening of its attachment through defective nutrition from the tree, when the real difficulty is not unfrequently the sting of the curculio. He says that one remedy and an effective one is to remove all the dropped fruit from the ground. If left to lie under the tree, the ovum contained in the blasted peach hatches and returns to the tree again

to blast and destroy, and so on indefinitely. The fallen fruit should all be carefully picked up and destroyed; or what is better, let the hogs have the range of the orchards, and they will eat it clean from the ground. As proof of the correctness of this theory, Mr. Gerker has a lot of a thousand or more of trees in which he has turned his hogs for several years, and these have invariably borne well and shown no signs of injury from curculio; and the last season when the crop was very meagre and the fruit poor elsewhere, this orchard bore a good crop of excellent fruit, though its treatment otherwise was *the same as that given the rest.*

Of course so large a plantation as Mr. Gerker's involves a vast deal of work and a good deal of executive ability to manage. His trees are generally of fine size and look well, although the pruning is not done so skillfully or thoroughly as in some smaller orchards. His trees are of all ages, from twenty years down to last fall's planting. A full crop from his vast orchards will give him a

HUNDRED THOUSAND BASKETS OF FRUIT.

The picking of this fruit employs from 60 to 100 men during the season. This labor he procures mostly from the lower part of the State, and is composed about equally of colored and white. He pays a dollar a day and boards them. In common with most large growers, he has great faith in the peach business, and is not much alarmed at the prospect of an over supply. The greatest difficulty he experiences is in the matter of high freights, which factious and spiteful prosecutions and unwise State taxation have obliged the R. R. companies to adopt to indemnify themselves against loss. Mr. G. believes in diversifying our fruit culture, rather than in running any speciality to extremes. And he also thinks that growers could profitably invest their capital in factories for drying, canning, and otherwise disposing of the surplus fruit, thus becoming masters of the situation, and regulating the supply of the market by the profitable demand for the fresh fruit. He also thinks that the distilling business will eventually become an important auxiliary in this work of disposing of surplus fruit in seasons of large crops, and of utilizing the lower grades in any season. He is quite largely engaged in this business already, having manufactured from his own fruit and that of his neighbors, the present year, about three thousands gallons of peach and apple brandy. Mr. G.'s theories on the liquor question would hardly comport with Gough's or Greeley's. He thinks that the people will have their grog, and argues very logically and in consonance with political economy, that there being about so much liquor consumed, it is better that it shall be a pure article, made from the juice of our native fruit, than the miserable mixture of poisonous chemicals with which the tipplers now burn up their bowels; and furthermore, the money is saved to the State. He thinks that eventually there will be a large demand for this product by the "Liquor Trade" of the country, he having already given it a good status in New York, where he sells readily several thousand gallons. It has hitherto failed to find a market outside the State at remunerative prices, because it is confounded with the Jersey product which is notoriously a mean fiery article, only palatable to the iron-bound and copper-fastened

rummy. The process of manufacture of the Jersey article is quite different from that of the Delaware brandy, and hence the difference in the product. The difference is this: The Jersey distiller doubles his low wines (about 60 proof) and runs it rapidly at a high temperature without any cooling application to the worms, and the spirit comes out at 140 or 150 degrees and this is reduced to proof (100) by adding the low wines which is full of impurities, and the result is a compound that might well be called Jersey lightning. The Delaware process is quite different. The low wines is carefully run through a worm kept at a low temperature, coming out a mild and pure spirit, which with a little age becomes a drink of rare excellence. When this difference is understood by consumers, Mr. G. is satisfied that there will be a large demand for Delaware Peach and Apple Brandy, and its manufacture will become a profitable industry to the State, and help materially to relieve the market of the fruit gluts. \$2.50 to \$3 per gallon is the price that this brandy is now selling for. *Connoisseurs* in New York pronounce a sample of Mr. G.'s peach brandy, now stored in that city as equal to the best Cognac, and not unlikely, when it once becomes well known, to supersede largely the imported article.

Mr. G.'s large farm gives him four or five hundred acres beside that set to peaches. This land, much of it, is in fine order, the offal from his glue factories and the ashes which he applied several years ago are still producing their good results, and last year he grew

FORTY BUSHELS OF WHEAT

to the acre. He grows a variety of the standard crops, such as corn, wheat, rye, potatoes, hay, &c., but thinks that grain should not be grown by the Delaware farmer except, in a small way for home consumption. Mr. Gerker is preparing to go largely into truck and vegetable farming. Among other things he will plant the coming season twenty acres of Asparagus, which will doubtless be by far the largest plantation of this article on the Peninsula. The demand for it is growing annually, and it is now being canned in large quantities and shipped everywhere. Messrs. Richardson & Robbins, of Dover, the last season brought the fresh vegetable from other States, to their factory here to be canned.

Mr. Gerker, like ourselves, thinks that the fruit growing business in Delaware is yet in its infancy. When he looks abroad over our great country and contemplates its almost magical increase in population—the seaboard and other interior cities with their teeming millions to whom these products are becoming a necessity instead of a luxury—when he contemplates our geographical position, our ready access to all the great markets of the country, and the rapidly augmenting facilities and diversified methods of preserving these products in a state little inferior to their juicy freshness, for transportation to the ends of the earth—he realizes that the whole Peninsula is destined to become the garden of the Continent, and the population rich and prosperous. With this confidant and comforting faith, the honest old German smokes his pipe in peace, dispenses a generous hospitality to his many guests, and reigns the unrivalled peach king of Delaware.

From the News and Advertiser, Milford, Del.

THE DAIRY.

DETERIORATION OF BUTTER IN HANDLING.

A letter from Mr. H. C. White of Brooklyn, was read recently at a meeting of the Western New York Dairyman's Association, giving his observations in regard to the handling of butter, &c., as follows:—

Every dairyman understands, or should, that few if any farm products are sooner injured by being brought into contact with bad odors than butter; and those who have sent any considerable quantities of the article to New York, or other markets, have often been very much disappointed on receipt of the returns of sales, to find some portion of the same consignment as good as any portion of the whole probably sold for much less price than the best of the lot commanded. For this discount in price the usual explanation, if any is given, has been "of inferior quality." Why of inferior quality? Butter sent by express usually comes speedily, but is put in the same car with all conceivable kinds of merchandise, and must often suffer by being brought in contact with deleterious odors. As far as my observation extends, however, my conviction is that most of the depreciation in the quality of butter occurs after it reaches its destination.

Business has called me into very many houses handling country produce, including butter, and too many of them are not such places as my judgment would approve for storing, handling and selling butter. In addition to butter, very many mix in pork in the hog, dressed veal, dressed poultry in all imaginable states, as well as large coops of live poultry including geese, ducks, turkeys and chickens. No dairyman need be told of the fate of his butter, shut up over night, or from Saturday to Monday, in such a place. Butter and eggs are often handled and stored in damp, confined basements, where the former has the benefit of the odor from those of the latter that are stale and broken. It requires a strong stomach or long practice to be able to pass much time in many of these localities. Responsibility is usually the point about which inquiry is made, but it is very evident consignees ought to know something of the place as well as the man to whom butter, at least, is sent for sale.

I would not be understood as saying that all commission dealers in these classes of goods are to be included in the description given. Some butter cellars are very good, though very few are unexceptionable in every particular.

These objections have less weight when the market is brisk with sales very soon after arrival, but with a dull market and slow sale they should have full force. There are some houses devoted to the sale of first-class, or what is known as "gilt-edged" butter, principally as supplies for the wealthy families in the upper part of New York. The right class of butter always commands the best prices in the New York market. The reputation

of a dairy or locality, as Orange county or Philadelphia, makes a large difference in price and the next largest difference is made in the manner of packing, handling and method of sale. Co-operation among dairymen may do much to correct some of the evils of which they complain; inspection may to some extent prevent the sending of inferior goods to a distant market, but while their goods can not go into clean, well kept and well conditioned commission houses, no extra packing or inspection can fully remedy the evils of which they complain.

I would give it as my opinion that the plan of market days, if they have the co-operation of the majority of the surrounding country, would have the effect of bringing enterprising, first-class purchasers to that market, where sales would in time be more satisfactorily made than can be done by sending to a distant market, with its many risks and drawbacks.

CHURNING.

During the process of churning, a certain uniformity of temperature must be observed, or the butter will be soft and spongy, instead of being firm and compact. The agitation, also of the cream should be regular—neither too quick nor too slow. If the agitation is too quick, the butter will make and unmake itself before the churner is aware of it, as too rapid motions induces fermentation, which when it has reached a certain point, is entirely destructive of anything like the possibility of making even moderately good or well tasting butter. If, on the other hand, the motion be too slow, the agitators in the churn fail to produce the desired separation of the component parts of the cream, and the consequence is, that after a good deal of time spent in lazy action, the churner is just as far from his butter as he was at the beginning of his labors. The best temperature for the cream in churning, is from fifty to sixty degrees.—*Willard's Dairy Husbandry*.

PRESERVING MILK AND CREAM.

Bethel's method of preserving milk and cream is as follows: "First, the milk is scalded; then it is surcharged with carbonic acid by means of a force-pump, and afterwards drawn off into strong metal barrels. By the aid of a valve-cock attached to a pipe leading to the bottom; the exit of the liquid, as may be wanted, can be managed. The milk may be placed in the barrels first, and the gas forced in afterward, and this doubtless is the most convenient plan to be adopted when milk is to be preserved under this method.

Another method recommended is to sweeten the milk by adding clarified sugar at the rate of four ounces to the gallon of milk. Then to curdle the mass by means of rennet, and separate the solid from the liquid portion with a sieve. The whey is evaporated to dryness and the residue mixed by the aid of heat and a little bicarbonate of soda (1 part to 20 parts residue), with the curd previously washed and pressed. When the amalgamation is perfect, sufficient tragacanth is added to promote the solidification of the mass,

LADIES DEPARTMENT.

[ORIGINAL.]

SCENES OF MY EARLY DAYS.

BY J. J. LAMKIN.

The memories of the past come stealing,
Softly stealing, through the chambers
Of my mind; and like a blooming flower,
Sheds its sweetest fragrance 'round my heart.
The Kite I used to fly—the walks I took,
Beside the babling brook, and wending vale—
The singing of the mocking bird from out
The rosy bower, that in the garden grew—
The old oak tree, and spring where oft I've strayed
To quench my thirst, and rest my weary limbs;
The old Church yard, the walls that closed it in—
The graves, the marble slabs that o'er them laid—
The preacher eloquent, who spoke of Christ—
Of Heaven, the cross and crown of life—
The winding of the old Potomac shore,
Along whose banks I've strayed, and on whose sands
Have marked my name, and see it washed away—
The melancholy music of the winds,
That often sweep those rolling waves along.
Such scenes as these are fresh in memories halls,
And even now are gliding through the chambers of
my mind.

They were to me the joyous scenes of youth,
And though the flight of time hath swept away
Those happy hours through which these scenes were
past.

Yet they shall never from my memory fade—
But like the evergreen that doth survive
The blighting frosts, and winter chilling winds—
So shall these joys survive the ills of life.

Yes, I was happy then beyond degree—
Imagination had no power to paint
The thrilling joys that filled my youthful heart,
And shall I sigh to think that they will ne'er
Return again? O no! but let me pray
For this—the future of my life may be
More bright and joyous than the hour of youth,
That I may sing again of memories
Doubly dear and sweeter far to me.

CHALK LEVEL, Va., Dec. 1873.

**CHAT WITH THE LADIES FOR
JANUARY.**

BY PATUXENT PLANTER.

"See Winter comes to rule the varied year,
Sullen and sad, with all its rising train,
Vapors, and clouds and storms."

What are you to do, what can you do, this month in the country? Well, you can help the poor; you can enjoy yourselves both in and out of doors. If it be very cold you can sleigh or skate, or walk. If mild, you can indulge in visiting your friends, on horse-back or in vehicles. You can look to your trees, flowers, and ordinary household duties, among which will be butter making, commanding big prices now, if nice colored and sweet. You can pursue your readings and studies that will fit you for the higher walks of a bright future that may be laid up in store for you.

You must look well after the house plants and those in the pits and conservatories. It is time your Hyacinths and Crocus are being brought forward in the windows to bloom, and give fragrance to the air of the parlor and dining room. From now, these sweet scented flowers, with the Violet and the Geraniums should be in full bloom and so continue to the end of March.

I have heretofore spoken of the Smilax as a handsome and very useful vine for many purposes, and urged our lady friends to propagate it. Its increasing

popularity as decorative plant induces me to insert a description of it and an illustration, both of which have been kindly furnished to the *Maryland Farmer* by the renowned veteran florist VICK, of Rochester, New York.



"This plant, a native of the Cape of Good Hope, has now become one of the essentials of the florist and amateur. It is extensively used in decorating parlors and reception-rooms—for weaving in the hair, and for trimming party dresses, for which purposes it is not only admirably adapted, being an extremely graceful vine, with glossy green leaves, but surpasses anything with which we are acquainted. With a little care it can be grown successfully as a house plant. The seeds should be sown in a box or in pots in the house, and should be kept moist till the young plants appear. The seed being rather slow to germinate, you must not think it bad if it does not make its appearance in two weeks. The young plants should be potted off into three inch pots as soon as they are three or four inches high. Once a year the bulbs should be allowed to dry off and rest. They will start into growth again in about six weeks. The vine does not require the full sun, but will grow well in a partially shaded situation. It can be trained on a small thread across the window or around pictures. It is a climbing vine, and will attach itself to a string in just about the right condition to use for wreaths, &c., or when required for lighter work, the branches which become entangled can be separated."

By way of recreation from heavy family sewing you may indulge your skill and fancy in embroidery or "tapestry which shows the needle like the pencil glows with life."

This beautiful, refined and fanciful employment once indulged in assiduously by Queens and Prin-

cesses, has lost its fashion somewhat, but ought to be more practiced by the lady sovereigns of our land. It is the elegant exhibition of skill, talent and artistic taste, and is always a subject of a proud boast from husband, father, brother and lover. A wellexecuted piece of tapestry is always a proof of the skill, talent, patience, industry and elegance of taste of her who designed and executed the work.

Now is the time to tame and make your beautiful denizens of the dove-cote, obedient to your will and familiar pets, by constant and regular feeding and petting at certain hours. They can get little provision elsewhere and will soon learn to be grateful for your bounty. You will acquire a fondness for them as they reciprocate by their gentle familiarity your kind attentions.

Dear ladies, I envy you—the many sources of happiness you have in your quiet country homes—and imagination and memory carry me back to those lost forever, but never to be forgotten happy winter days and nights I spent for a half century in a joyous country home, secluded from anxious cares and the busy, bustling, bewildering haunts of men intent on gain or the rewards of ambition. I congratulate you on your enjoyment of country life, which I never allow my mind to dwell upon without recalling to mind the beautiful sentiment of the poet when he exclaims

"It is to dwell
Mid smiles that are not neighbors to deceit;
Music whose melody is of the heart,
And gifts that are not made for interest—
Abundantly bestow'd, by natures cheek,
And voice, and hand! It is to live on life,
And husband it! It is to constant scan
The handiwork of heaven! It is to con-
L's mercy, bountiful, wisdom, power! It is
To nearer see our God!"

FLORICULTURE—*Scribner's Monthly* says all lovers of flowers must remember that one blossom allowed to mature or "go to seed" injures the plant more than a dozen new buds. Cut your flowers then, all of them, before they begin to fade. Adorn your room with them; put them on your tables; send bouquets to your friends who have no flowers; or exchange favors with those who have. You will surely find that the more you cut off the more you will have. All Roses, after they have ceased to bloom, should be cut back, that the strength of the root may go to forming new roots for the next year. On bushes not a seed should be allowed to mature.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Jno. Saul, Washington, D. C., Nurseryman, Seedsman and Florist.

R. C. Davidge, The Asbestos Felting Co's. Fire proof Roofing.

Munn & Co., 37 Park Row, N. Y. The best paper! Try it?

Briggs & Bro., Rochester, N. Y., January Quarterly. Waggoner & Matthews, Westminster, Md., Honiny Machines, the best in the market.

Leonard Scott Pub. Co., 140 Fulton street, N. Y. The British Quarterly Reviews.

Jas. J. H. Gregory, Marblehead, Mass. Gregory's Seed Catalogue.

Leslie R. Quackenbush, Ifferkemer, N. Y. Air Rifle.

Joshua R. Horner, Jr. Horner's Md. Super Phosphate, &c.

Dr. J. Ball & Co., 91 Liberty street, N. Y. Save your eyes.

The Taylor Manufacturing Co., Westminster, Md. Rotary Engines, Circular saws, single and double, &c., &c.

Moore's Rural New Yorker.

Henry S. Taylor, Burlington, N. J., Berkshire pigs, Bronze gobblers, and Shepherd pups, for sale.

Domestic Recipes.

To COOK A TURKEY.—A lady correspondent of the "Mobile Register" gives the following directions: "The evening before you expect to cook a turkey, kill it, clean it nicely, salt well and put it away in some good, cool, suitable place, where there are no unpleasant odors of any kind. Next morning take one-fourth of a pound of fresh butter and one-fourth of a pound of sugar; mix the butter and the sugar well together, and with a knife or otherwise plaster this mixture all over the turkey while cold; then take a piece of stout domestic or Lowells, and make a sack, into which carefully place the turkey, and sew it up, lapping every part of the sack so as to make it fit close and tight to the turkey; place in cold water, heat up, and boil for four and a-half hours. The turkey will, by this time, be well cooked, and in his own juices, and will be sweet, tender and juicy. Now, take out of the sack, stuff with good, well-prepared stuffing, place in the stove, and roast or bake. Now, my word for it, there is more pleasure in eating one turkey cooked thus than in eating half a dozen cooked the ordinary way."

HOW TO PEEL ONIONS.—A scientific cook has discovered the following mode: It is simply to nearly fill a deep pan with water and to peel the onions beneath its surface. It is a small discovery, but it will save oceans of tears. It is said that a needle held in the mouth while one is skinning these tear-seeds will keep the brine out of the eyes.

POISONING BY PLANTS AND INSECTS.—A standing antidote for poison by oak, ivy, &c., is to take a handful of quicklime, dissolve it in water, let it stand half an hour, then paint the poison parts with it. Three or four applications will never fail to cure the most aggravated cases. Poison from bees, hornets, spider bites, &c., is instantly arrested by the application of equal parts of common salt and bicarbonate of soda, well rubbed in on the place bitten or stung.—*Boston Journal of Chemistry*.

HOW TO KEEP MEAT.—Meat is much better for family use when at least one week old in cold weather. The English method for keeping meat for some time has great merit. Experts say, hang up a quarter of meat with the cut end up, being the reverse of the usual way, by the leg, and the juice will remain in the meat, and not run to the cut and dry up by evaporation. It is worth a trial, and when made will be continued.

A GOOD WAY TO COOK ONIONS.—It is a good plan to boil onions in milk and water, it diminishes the strong taste of that vegetable. It is an excellent way of serving up onions, to chop them after they are boiled, and put them in a stew-pan with a little milk, butter, salt and pepper, and let them stand about fifteen minutes. This gives them a fine flavor, and they can be served up very hot.

APPLE FLOAT.—One pint of apples strained, the whites of three eggs, a teacupful of thick cream, sugar enough to sweeten; beat all very light, pour one quart of milk in a glass bowl, add a gill of Madeira wine, pile the float upon the milk, and trim with bright colored jelly on the top,

VICK'S NEW SEED WAREHOUSE.



ment, and Artists' and Engravers' Rooms. Everything but the paper To do this work fully occupies a building four stories in height width, and one hundred and fifty feet in length, with an addition in the an entire adjoining block.

Basement.—The large basement is arranged with immense quantities of drawers, &c., for storing Bulbs. Here, too, are stored the heavier kinds of Seeds, in sacks, &c., piled to the ceiling. The heavier packing is also done here.

First Floor.—The first floor is used entirely as a sales-shop, or "store," for the sale of Seeds, Flowers, Plants and all Garden requisites and adornments, such as baskets, vases, lawn mowers, lawn tents, aquaria, seats, &c., &c. It is arranged with taste, and the songs of the birds, the fragrance and beauty of the flowers, make it a most delightful spot in which to spend an hour.—*To be Continued in February.*



INTERIOR OF STORE.

We propose to present our readers a series of drawings illustrating the new Seed House of JAMES VICK, of Rochester, New York, embracing interior and exterior views, of what is admitted by all as the largest and best regulated Seed House, probably in the world, and is annually visited by thousands from every part of this country, as well as from Europe. As hundreds will probably never have the opportunity of making a personal visit to this very complete establishment, we propose to illustrate our Lady's Department with designs of the several departments, which are furnished us by Mr. Vick, the descriptions of which we copy from his beautifully Illustrated *Floral Guide* for 1873. In this number we present the Seed Warehouse and Interior of Store, in subsequent numbers we will give the Store Front, the Order Room, the Packing Room, and the Bindery:

"Two Catalogues are issued each year, one of Bulbs in August, and on the first of December a beautiful *FLORAL GUIDE*, of 1873 pages, finely illustrated with hundreds of engravings of Flowers and plants and colored plates. Last year, the number printed was *three hundred thousand*, and, at a cost of over *sixty thousand dollars*. In addition to the ordinary conveniences of a well regulated Seed House, there is connected with this establishment a Printing Office, Bindery, Fox Making Establishment, being made in the establishment, (besides basement,) sixty feet in the upper story of a large room over